Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Did you stock up on emergency supplies to prepare for Typhoon Melor?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS PHASE 6

October 9, 2009

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

Killer Mudslides

Dozens of landslides in the rain-soaked mountains of the northern Philippines killed an estimated 100 people, as a lingering storm and excess water from dams turned a portion of one province into "one big river," officials said Friday.

Maharlika...Page 12

Liz OK

Elizabeth Taylor is feeling fine after a heart procedure.

Life & Style...Page 21

CNMI ranks lowest in ARRA money spending

Commerce wants public to consider factors

WALK FOR A CAUSE HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Rep. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), left, Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo, second from left, and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, right, lead the Men Against Violence Walk along Beach Road from Minachom Atdao in Susupe to Chalan Laulau and back late yesterday afternoon in observance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Over 200 adults and youths in blue shirts took part in the march, which aims to raise awareness about domestic violence. The marchers included those from Marianas High School, Saipan Southern High School, Head Start program, Community Guidance Center, Criminal Justice Planning Agency, Division of Youth Services, Office of Adult Probation, and Board of Parole.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The CNMI is at the bottom of the list when it comes to spending federal stimulus funding, according to an updated report from the federal tracking system.

Ada

At the same time, the CNMI Department of Commerce is now soliciting requests for proposals from qualified information technology contractors to create its American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

See CNMI on Page 4

Joaquina now at federal prison in Dublin, California

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Joaquina Villagomez-Santos is now at the Federal Correctional Institution in Dublin, California to serve her six years and six months sentence for her participation in the Rydlyme corruption scandal.

Villagomez-Santos

According to the U.S. Bureau of Prisons, Santos's actual or projected release date from FCI

See JOAQUINA on Page 4

Swine flu vaccination starts next week

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Department of Public Health is encouraging the community to have their swine flu immunization shots once the vaccines arrive next week.

Public Health medical director Richard Brostrom said the CNMI is fortunate that the vaccines are free to the public.

DPH said its first order for the vaccines will arrive in the next few days and it would be adequate for the entire population of the CNMI.

Brostrom estimated the total volume allocated for the CNMI will be about 56,000 doses.

At the same time, immunization shots for the seasonal flu vaccine will also be administered.

Brostrom said swine flu immunization is not mandatory but DPH advises the public to take advantage of it because it is a preventive approach against H1N1.

The vaccines would be available for anybody, including nonresi-

See SWINE on Page 4

In a surprise, Obama wins Nobel Peace Prize

By KARL RITTER and MATT MOORE
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITERS

OSLO (AP)—President Barack Obama won the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize on Friday for "his extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples," the Norwegian Nobel Committee said, citing his outreach to the Muslim world and attempts to curb nuclear proliferation.

Obama

RELATED NEWS

- Nobel lit prize goes to little-known European.

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Mariana fruit bats threatened with extinction. **PAGE 2**
14 arrested in federal campaign vs drugs, gun traffickers. **PAGE 3**

Local

Mariana fruit bats threatened with extinction

The United States Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands and the CNMI Department of Land and Natural Resources announced today that poaching on Rota is threatening the Mariana fruit bat with extinction.

The Mariana fruit bat (or the *fanihi*, as it is known locally) has been part of the Chamorro culture for centuries. When the bats were hunted by traditional means, their population was stable. With the advent of firearms, however, their numbers have declined drastically. The Guam and CNMI fanihi are listed as an threatened species under the Federal Endangered Species Act. It is a violation of federal, Guam and CNMI law to kill them.

Mariana fruit bats roost in maternal colonies, made up mostly of females and their pups, as well as a few juvenile and breeding males. Adult male bats roost in small bachelor colonies or individually. There are only about 100 fruit bats left on Guam. Until this year, there were approximately 1,700 on Rota, in five maternal colonies. Since 2008, a small gang of poachers has been attacking the maternal colonies, slaughtering females and their babies. If this continues, the Rota fanihi will soon be extinct, and a symbol of Chamorro life will be gone forever.

In June 2008, half of the Fanlagon maternal colony was destroyed by individuals using 12-gauge and .410 shotguns. It is estimated that 45 females and juveniles were killed. In June 2008, the Liyo colony was also attacked. This has resulted in the bats changing their flight path to and from the colony site. They now fly far out over the ocean, often in heavy winds, expending energy that should go to sustain their young. Mothers return less often to feed their pups during the night, or fail to return at all, resulting in the neglect and abandonment of the babies.

In October 2008, the As Dudo maternal population was destroyed by poachers using 12-gauge and .410 shotguns. According to CNMI wildlife biologists, some 65 fanihi, about 90 percent of the colony, were killed.

In November 2008, the Sumac maternal colony was attacked, and 70 percent of the females and juveniles were slaughtered, again with .410 and 12-gauge shotguns.

Only four days ago, on Oct. 5, 2009, the Lempanai colony was attacked and approximately 30 females and juveniles were killed.

A species cannot survive if its breeding grounds, its breeding females, and its young, are killed. In the last 14 months, half of the fanihi population on Rota has been destroyed. If the people of Rota want their children and their children's children to know and appreciate these gentle animals, they need to help stop this slaughter.

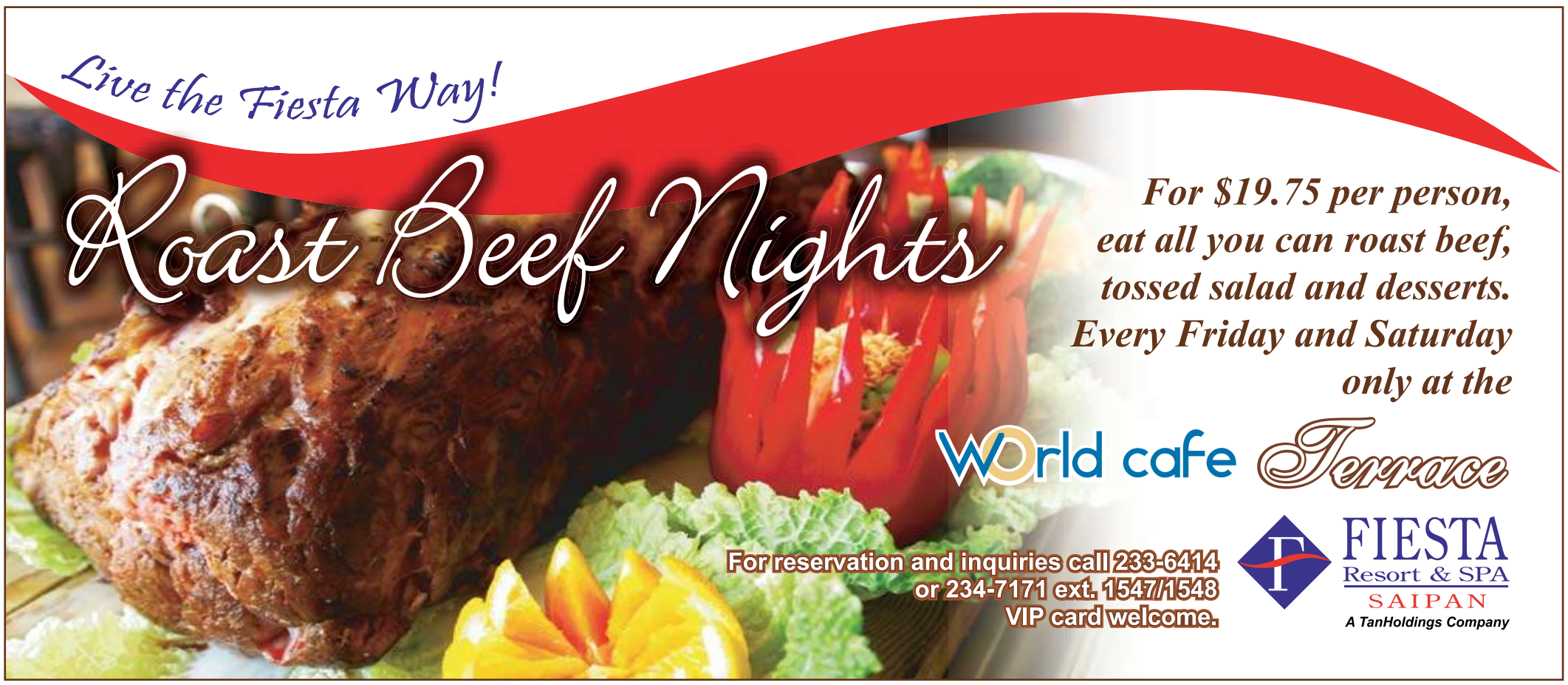
If you have any information about the identities of these poachers, please call (670) 236-2980, (670) 233-0938, CNMI Crime Stoppers (670) 234-7272, or Guam Crime Stoppers (671) 477-4357. ***(PR)***

Navy to conduct live-fire exercises on Farallon de Medinilla

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Navy will conduct live-fire training exercises on the island of Farallon de Medinilla from 7am to 1am on Oct. 13-14, 16 and 18.

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon de Medinilla Training Area on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. The general public especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators are advised to stay clear from this area during the time and date indicated.

Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides access frequency that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. ***(PR)***



14 arrested in federal campaign vs drugs, gun traffickers

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Federal law enforcement agencies have arrested 14 persons in a one-month period on Saipan in line with the U.S. government's campaign to get guns and drugs—and those who traffic in them—off the streets of the CNMI.

United States Attorney for the Districts of Guam and NMI Leonardo M. Rapadas said yesterday that the series of arrests arose from the 18-month-long investigations conducted by the Organized Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Force.

OCDETF is composed of federal law enforcement agencies such as the Drug Enforcement Administration; Federal Bureau of Investigation; Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; U.S. Marshals Service; and the U.S. Coast Guard.

"The United States Attorney's Office is committed to provide safe neighborhoods for the people of the CNMI," said Rapadas in a statement.

Yesterday, federal agents arrested Juan "Jun" Ada for allegedly selling methamphetamine or "ice" during buy-bust operations this year.

Ada was taken to the U.S. District Court for the NMI yesterday afternoon for a bail hearing on charges of three counts of possession of "ice" with intent to distribute.

Vicente Cabrera was also arrested yesterday for allegedly conspiring with Jawn Joyner and Sheree Demapan Diaz in the distribution of "ice" on Saipan in 2008 and 2009. Federal agents arrested Joyner and Diaz on Wednesday.

Last month, federal agents also arrested Biao Huang, Lian Sheng, Huang Ya Bin, Chun Mei Lin, Roque Norita, Inos Germinaro, Julita Sablan, and Peter R. Reyes Jr. for conspiracy to distribute "ice" and distribution of "ice."

In addition, Norita was charged for possession of a firearm by a prohibited person for allegedly selling a rifle to a confidential source, and for possession of a Japanese rifle, while being a convicted felon.

Last month, federal agents also arrested Dexter Ulloa Maratita and Damien Pua for possession of a firearm by a prohibited person for allegedly separately selling a gun to a confidential source. Both defendants are convicted felons.

Rapadas explained that they cannot always bring charges or make arrests right away because of many factors.

Rapadas cited the factors such as the nature of the OCDETF investigations, the number of suspects, the difficulty in penetrating their organizations, the ease with which illegal drugs and guns can be hidden, the foreign sources of the drugs, and the tremendous amount of hours and agency resources that are required to observe and document drug buys.

He also mentioned that what made the operations more difficult is the involvement of public servants, including some police officers and firefighters.

"The needs of the overall investigation, including maintaining the anonymity of the confidential sources we use for as long as possible, must take priority, so that law enforcement can cast a wide net over as many criminals as possible," Rapadas said.

He hinted that since joint investigations are still ongoing, more persons may be arrested and charged in the months to come.

Timothy Landrum, special agent in charge for DEA's Los Angeles office, said that, for too long these drug dealers have poisoned our streets and put fear into innocent people across the communities.

These arrests, Landrum said, dismantle this drug mob and should significantly impact drug-related crime in the communities where these organizations operated.

"DEA along with our federal, state and local partners will continue to pursue and attack criminal organizations that wreak havoc on our streets and intimidate local residents," Landrum added.

Federal agents, however, reminded the public that defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

Northern Marianas joins 2009 PATA Travel Mart

The Marianas Visitors Authority recently promoted Saipan, Tinian, and Rota at the Pacific Asia Travel Association Travel Mart 2009 in Hangzhou, China.

The goal of the travel mart held Sept. 22-25, 2009, was to allow one-on-one business appointments between hundreds of tourism and travel buyers and sellers.

The Northern Mariana Islands had 40 appointments with buyers from Europe, Asia, the United States, Australia, and Russia. Most of these buyers were looking for new destinations for their clients. During the pre-arranged meetings, MVA managing director Judy Torres presented the Northern Marianas as a new destination to the Asian region and as a long-haul destination to the European markets.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Judy Torres mans MVA's Pacific Asia Travel Association Travel Mart 2009 booth in Hangzhou, China.

"Rather than MVA going to each country, we are able to meet them on this important annual show sponsored by PATA," said Torres. "It is a tremendous cost-saving strategy."

As the region's premier contracting and business networking event—registration was considerably higher at this year's PATA Travel Mart than in 2008.

"We were able to highlight the NMI during our one-on-one sessions by presenting our destination, location, offerings, and other essential information," said Torres. "We answered their questions and exchanged contact information that our MVA members can use to introduce local products and services."

The Northern Marianas also joined Guam, Palau, and the Marshall Islands at a designated pavilion to cooperatively promote the Micronesia destination. ***(PR)***

GTC kids receive oral hygiene tips from SDA

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School students last Wednesday received free oral hygiene tips from the Seventh Day Adventist registered dental hygienist Lori I. Serna.

A total of 65 children mostly from second and third grades were also provided free toothbrushes and stickers as they enjoyed hearing stories from the visiting dentist.

Serna

SDA Dental Clinic has been serving the CNMI for the last nine years.

Serna said GTC was the first school she visited for the month and vowed to continue visiting others in the next weeks.

Among the basic lessons taught to the three classes at GTC included the importance of teeth, how to take care of it, nutrition, healthy diet, and prevention tips.

Serna said that throughout the month, SDA Dental Clinic will provide free dental exams to clients and encourage them to call 234-6323 for a schedule.

In the month-long celebration, Serna said public information awareness will be conducted such as presentation to schools, articles on newspapers, and public announcements on billboards.

The clinic, she said, is also working closely with the schools and parents for prevention awareness.

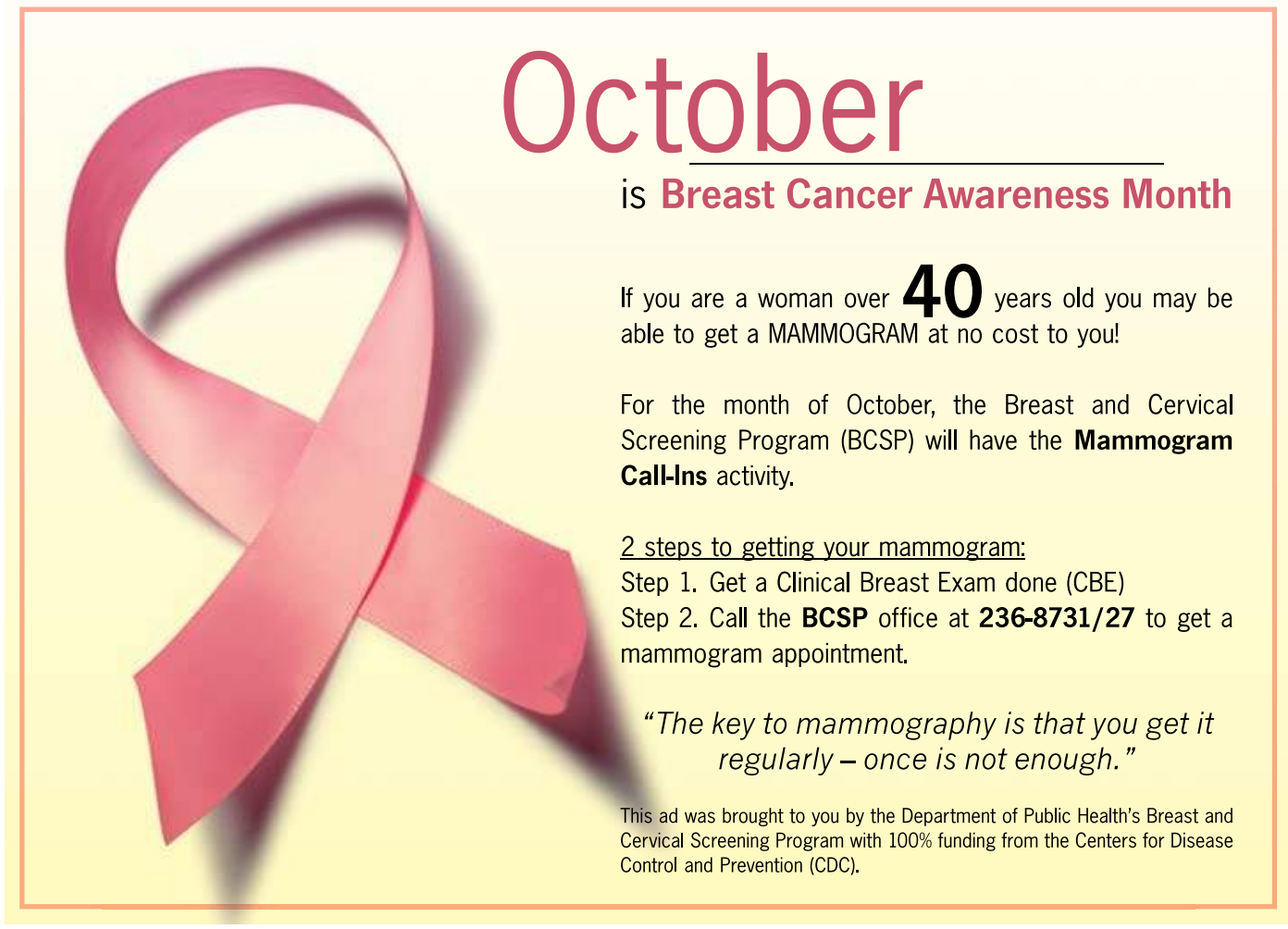
"It's really about prevention. The early you start the prevention, the better and healthier it will be for our kids. When a child has a toothache it really impairs their ability to focus and concentrate in school," she said, adding that children must also be taught when to use the fluoride which is from six months old.

In the past nine years, Serna said hundreds of CNMI students have been treated by SDA Dental Clinic, a nonprofit dental clinic which mission is to reach a greater number of underserved children.

Besides the yearly dental hygiene month celebration, SDA also had two regular programs—"Clinic with a Heart" and "Give Kids a Smile."

"SDA Clinic is very committed to doing community work. We're not only committed to providing top-of-the-line treatment for the people but also to give back to the community," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Last summer over a hundred kids were attended to by "Clinic with a Heart" while over 200 benefited from the "Give Kids a Smile" program.


October
is Breast Cancer Awareness Month
If you are a woman over 40 years old you may be able to get a MAMMOGRAM at no cost to you!
For the month of October, the Breast and Cervical Screening Program (BCSP) will have the Mammogram Call-Ins activity.
2 steps to getting your mammogram:
Step 1. Get a Clinical Breast Exam done (CBE)
Step 2. Call the BCSP office at 236-8731/27 to get a mammogram appointment.
"The key to mammography is that you get it regularly – once is not enough."
This ad was brought to you by the Department of Public Health's Breast and Cervical Screening Program with 100% funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Samoa mourns as crowd honors tsunami victims

KENI LESA
ASSOCIATED PRESR WRITER

APIA, Samoa (AP)—A weeping crowd paid their respects in the Samoan capital to the 143 victims of tsunami waves that smashed coastal villages to matchsticks more than a week ago in the worst natural disaster to hit the small South Pacific country.

The capital, Apia, was at a standstill Thursday as more than 5,000 gathered at a somber national memorial service that united a country still coming to grips with the devastation from the Sept. 29 waves on the main island of Upolu.

A police band played a funeral march as three trucks draped in fine mats and tapa cloth carried 11 caskets into Samoa's main stadium. Three tiny caskets held the remains of children.

Most bodies have already been buried in their villages or are awaiting burial, but families of the 11 agreed they should be interred in a mass grave at Tafaigata Cemetery.

Police officers lifted each white-lace-covered casket from the trucks and laid them in a row.

As the names of the 143 victims were read out and wreaths were laid for each, hundreds of people wept openly. Nine foreigners killed in the tsunami were also honored.

At least six victims are still missing.

In his eulogy, Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele told mourners that faith in God had sustained Samoa during this time of tragedy. He also called the tsunami was a wake-up call for Samoa.

"Its a reminder for us to be prepared at any time," said Tuilaepa, who lost two relatives in the disaster.

The priority now was helping families and communities "bring normalcy back to their lives" in the wake of the tsunami disaster, he said.

He thanked South Pacific neighbors Australia and New Zealand as well as other governments and international agencies for rescue teams, emergency supplies and other aid.

As the service ended, a procession of several hundred mourners followed the coffins to the burial site at Apia's Tafaigata Cemetery. Tuilaepa said a monument to the victims will be erected there.

Tulai Simati, who lost six family members but has only recovered only three of their bodies, did not attend the memorial service.

Tropical Depression 21W moves away, may turn into storm

Tropical Depression 21W is expected to become a tropical storm by today, but fortunately it moved farther away from the Northern Marianas yesterday.

As of 1pm, the tropical depression's center was 350 miles northwest of Saipan and 420 miles north-northwest of Guam.

No watches or warnings are currently in effect for the CNMI and Guam.

Packing sustained winds at 35 miles per hour, the tropical depression was moving north-northwest at 14mph.

According to the National Weather Service in Guam, the tropical depression will intensify slightly within the next 24 hours and possibly will become a tropical storm this morning, Saturday.

Rainbands caused by the tropical depression moved across the Marianas on Thursday, dumping a 24-hour rainfall in the CNMI and Guam.

Rain showers continued yesterday in the CNMI. NWS said rainbands could bring a few inches of additional rain before the system moves far enough away. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

OBAMA

From Page 1

The stunning choice made Obama the third sitting U.S. president to win the Nobel Peace Prize and shocked Nobel observers because Obama took office less than two weeks before the Feb. 1 nomination deadline. Obama's name had been mentioned in speculation before the award but many Nobel watchers believed it was too early to award the president.

"Only very rarely has a person to the same extent as Obama captured the world's attention and given its people hope for a better future," the committee said. "His diplomacy is founded in the concept that those who are to lead the world must do so on the basis of values and attitudes that are shared by the majority of the world's population."

The committee said it attached special importance to Obama's vision of, and work for, a world without nuclear weapons.

"Obama has as president created a new climate in international politics. Multilateral diplomacy has regained a central position, with emphasis on the role that the United Nations and other international institutions can play," the committee said.

Theodore Roosevelt won the award in 1906 and Woodrow Wilson won in 1919. Former President Jimmy Carter won the award in 2002, while former Vice President Al Gore shared the 2007 prize with the U.N. panel on climate change.

The Nobel committee received a record 205 nominations for this year's prize.

In his 1895 will, Alfred Nobel stipulated that the peace prize should go "to the person who shall have done the most or the best work for fraternity between the nations and the abolition or reduction of standing armies and the formation and spreading of peace congresses."

Unlike the other Nobel Prizes, which are awarded by Swedish institutions, he said the peace prize should be given out by a five-member committee elected by the Norwegian Parliament. Sweden and Norway were united under the same crown at the time of Nobel's death.

The committee has taken a wide interpretation of Nobel's guidelines, expanding the prize beyond peace mediation to include efforts to combat poverty, disease and climate change.

SWINE

From Page 1

dent workers and tourists.

DPH assured that the vaccines are well-manufactured, proven safe, and have no serious side effects.

DPH is now coordinating with the Public School System on how to conduct immunization at the schools.

The CNMI registered a total of 71 confirmed cases of H1N1 but DPH has stopped the testing procedures.

Brostrom said it would be a difficult process to continue, but since it has been determined that there is a community transmission of the disease, it is best to assume that when a person is with the flu, there is a big chance that he has contracted swine flu.

DPH turns to social networking sites

In a related development, DPH relaunched its Flu W.A.T.C.H. with a series of activities such as going to schools, giving out the "Kung Flu" villain sticker and other outreach programs.

Public health program analyst Roxanne Diaz said the public information campaign would also be extended through online services such as Facebook, MySpace, and Youtube.

Diaz said that this is basically the same flu prevention and protection campaign that the DPH had initiated in 2007.

The public is advised to:

■ Wash their hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds, especially after they cough or sneeze;

■ Avoid sick people and avoid touching the eyes, nose and mouth because germs spread this way;

■ Teach others how to prevent the flu;

■ Cover your cough or sneeze with tissue or sleeve nor hands; and

■ Have and emergency plan ready in case they get sick and keep a two-week worth of emergency supplies, food, water and medicine at home.

DPH said these are effective precautionary measures that everyone should practice to prevent the spread of flu.

Since Flu WATCH's target audience is school-aged children, an animated flu character, Kung Flu, was created to capture the attention of kids.

Kung Flu is the emblem of the flu virus and thus, the bad guy that's making people sick.

Kung Flu is the flu enemy that all should protect themselves from.

The public can tune in to Power 99 for the Kung Flu Trivia showdown. All trivia questions will be about the flu. To learn more about the Flu WATCH Campaign, visit http://fluwatch.mp or email fluwatchcnmi@gmail.com.

JOAQUINA

From Page 1

is April 21, 2015. The defendant is 51 years old.

FCI Dublin is a low security facility housing female offenders. It is located 20 miles southeast of Oakland on the Camp Parks Army Reserve Forces Training Area Military Base.

BOP's website states that FCI Dublin has an adjacent administrative detention facility housing adult males on holdover or pre-trial status. It has also a minimum security satellite camp housing adult female offenders.

Santos's brother, former lieutenant governor Timothy P. Villagomez, was taken last month to the Federal Correctional Institution in Phoenix, Arizona to serve his seven years and three months sentence for his role in the same corruption case.

Joaquina Santos's husband, James A. Santos, was brought to the United States Penitentiary (USP)-Victorville in Alelanto, California, to serve his six years and six months in prison for his involvement in the scheme to defraud the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the United States.

Villagomez and the Santos couple were flown out from Saipan last Aug. 24 to begin serving their sentences in federal prison.

The three appealed their convictions and sentences to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

CNMI

From Page 1

reporting system.

As of 3pm yesterday, seven contractors have picked up copies of the RFP at the Division of Procurement and Supply in Lower Base. The deadline for submission of bids is Oct. 21.

As of Sept. 30, the CNMI has only spent $358,669 or 0.8 percent of the $44,736,824 in ARRA funding so far made available to it, data from recovery.gov shows.

The total amount announced for the CNMI stands at over $53 million.

The CNMI's spending level is the lowest among 50 states, five territories, and three Pacific nations receiving ARRA money.

'Fairness'

But Commerce Secretary Michael Ada, when asked for comment yesterday, said there are several dynamics that need to be considered when it comes to ARRA money expenditure.

"The reason our percentage is now less than 1 percent is because more money has come in. As I have mentioned in previous communications to the press, there is lag time for fund draw downs simply due to systems. The other reason for our expenditures being 'behind' even among smaller jurisdictions could be the type of funds being drawn down," Ada said.

For example, the money could have gone to things like Medicaid payments which are easier spent as the funds cover Medicaid reimbursements, than energy money, he said.

"In addition, you need to consider that the CNMI government is not the only recipient of the money, so it is unfair to blame the expenditure lag strictly on the central government," he added.

He said the Northern Marianas College, Northern Marianas Housing Corp., Commonwealth Ports Authority, and Public School System all received direct money that didn't come through the CNMI executive branch and whose money doesn't go into the central government's Financial Management System.

For fairness' sake, he said, the same questions should be asked of autonomous agencies.

Other territories

To date, Guam has already spent $17.3 million or 17 percent of the $103.5 million made available to it.

American Samoa has so far spent $4.6 million or 9 percent of $51.9 million in available ARRA funding.

The U.S. Virgin Islands has spent $19.7 million or 19 percent of $101.7 million ARRA money, while Puerto Rico spent 28 percent or over $813 million of $2.854 billion available so far.

Even Palau, the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia spent more in ARRA money than the CNMI. Palau has so far spent $950,000 or 37 percent or over $2.5 million in ARRA money. FSM has so far spent over $3.6 million of $5 million in available federal stimulus funds, while the Marshall Islands, $1.8 million of over $2.9 million.

Press secretary Charles Reyes, when asked for comment yesterday, said "Michael Ada and all relevant staff are working on these issues and placing the highest possible priority on the expeditious processing of such funds."

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP), in a news briefing on Tuesday, said he understands the need for strict financial control when it comes to ARRA funding.

But Sablan said it raises concerns when even Guam and American Samoa are bound by the same strict financial controls and are still able to move much faster in allocating and spending ARRA money.

"I'm pleading…we need recovery dollars in our economy as soon as possible," he told reporters.

Procurement

Ada said the procurement process also holds up a great deal of the contracting, obligation, and ultimately, expenditures of ARRA money.

Procurement regulations require a 30-day posting of RFPs, followed by the evaluation, negotiation, and subsequent contract award, and this only obligates the money, he said.

In addition, provisions such as "Buy America" have proven to be an obstacle in projects as simple as lighting retrofits.

"Another thing to note is that just because other jurisdictions have quickly spent money doesn't mean they have done so with accountability, transparency, and responsibility, but that has yet to be seen," Ada told *Saipan Tribune* in an e-mail response.

The CNMI, according to Ada, also reported updates to the federal tracking system and the numbers will not be made available until Oct. 31.

"The reports are due on the 10th. We have from the 11-30th to amend, and they become public on the 31st. This is per the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board. In addition, I am not sure what the autonomous agencies reported, so it is premature in all aspects," Ada added.

In closing, Ada said the ARRA issue is a complex one.

"It is very hard to break down in snippets so where folks can really grasp it. I think it would help everyone have a better understanding of this and for you to provide a clearer picture to your readers," he added.

On Sept. 18, *Saipan Tribune* reported that the CNMI spent only 1 percent or $332,000 of the $27.935 million in federal stimulus money that was made available as of that date.

Teacheread caps Motheread program for fiscal year

In fiscal year 2008-09, the CNMI Motheread program under the NMI Council for the Humanities and in partnership with DCCA-Child Care Development Fund, delivered another Infant and Toddler Teacheread training at San Antonio Manhoben Center last Sept. 26.

Teacheread is a locally developed course modeled on Motheread's storysharing frameworks. It is a skill strengthening training that builds on reading, writing, speaking, and listening with young children.

A research-based method that allows participants to explore stories from adult and child perspectives, Teacheread enables them to use stories as a way to teach children literacy skills, thinking skills, and valuable life lessons evident only through close scrutiny.

Motheread Storysharing techniques were discussed at the training sessions to make reading aloud more fun for them and the children that they will read to. The training course also gave participants an opportunity to share their ideas; experiences, and concerns to other teachers and childcare providers.

In the 12-hour training course participants and trainers openly talked about the importance of reading aloud to children, and the positive outcomes derived from exposing children to read aloud activities.

The participants discussed Motheread's storysharing frameworks and how it could be modified for delivery effectiveness at their centers. Participants were assigned storybooks and have the responsibility of forming their own lesson plan using Motheread's storysharing frameworks.

Participants presented their assigned storybook fervently and with great attention to details of their created lesson plans in the later part of the training course.

Teacheread participants for this cycle included Sister Martha Ramurui, Jhoanna Fernando, Lourdes Leong, Laura Cruz, Michelle Silvano, and Lorna Quizon.

Technical assistance and observation was also scheduled at each participating childcare center to find out Motheread's methodology effectiveness in center-based settings. Informal storysharing checklist criteria and responses from target audience were taken. Results from these observations were very positive. Motheread storysharing process delivers effective reading activity that is very enjoyable to both the teacher and student.

Bryan Manabat and Viola Deleon Guerrero facilitated the Teacheread for Infant and Toddler training.

Successful completion of the training would not be possible without the exemplary support of Maribel Loste, Child Care Development Fund director, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sister Martha Ramurui, Jhoanna Fernando, Lourdes Leong, Laura Cruz, Michelle Silvano, and Lorna Quizon took part in the Infant and Toddler Teacheread training at San Antonio Manhoben Center last Sept. 26.

DEQ raises green flag on Rota sites, red-flags 10 locations on Saipan

The Division of Environmental Quality has issued a green flag on all the sites on Rota after none of the samples collected from them didn't exceed the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards.

The agency, however, has raised the red flag on 10 sites on Saipan and advises the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Samples collected from Tanapag Meeting Hall, Central Repair Shop, DPW Channel Bridge, Smiling Cove Marina, American Memorial Park Drainage, Micro Beach, Garapan Fishing Dock, Sugar Dock, Old Man By the Sea, and Marine Beach on Saipan contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria—enterococci—that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards.

These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. However, studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropical environments may also contain these bacteria from the natural environment, which may not be directly associated with public health concerns.

Managaha and Tinian were not sampled this week. DEQ analyzes samples of marine recreational and storm drainage water from 50 locations on Saipan, 10 on Tinian, 12 on Rota, and a total of 11 samples from the shore surrounding Managaha. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE OF SALE

UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

William S. Pangelinan and Diana C. Pangelinan (collectively "Trustor"), on or about February 25, 1985, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on February 27, 1985 under Document No. 85-0479 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

Lot No. 005 I 124, containing an area of 1,092 square meters, more or less, as shown on Cadastral Plat No. 005 I 02, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry as Document No. 16707 on March 11, 1983, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on June 12, 2009. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on October 30, 2009 at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$36,730.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **October 29, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than October 29, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

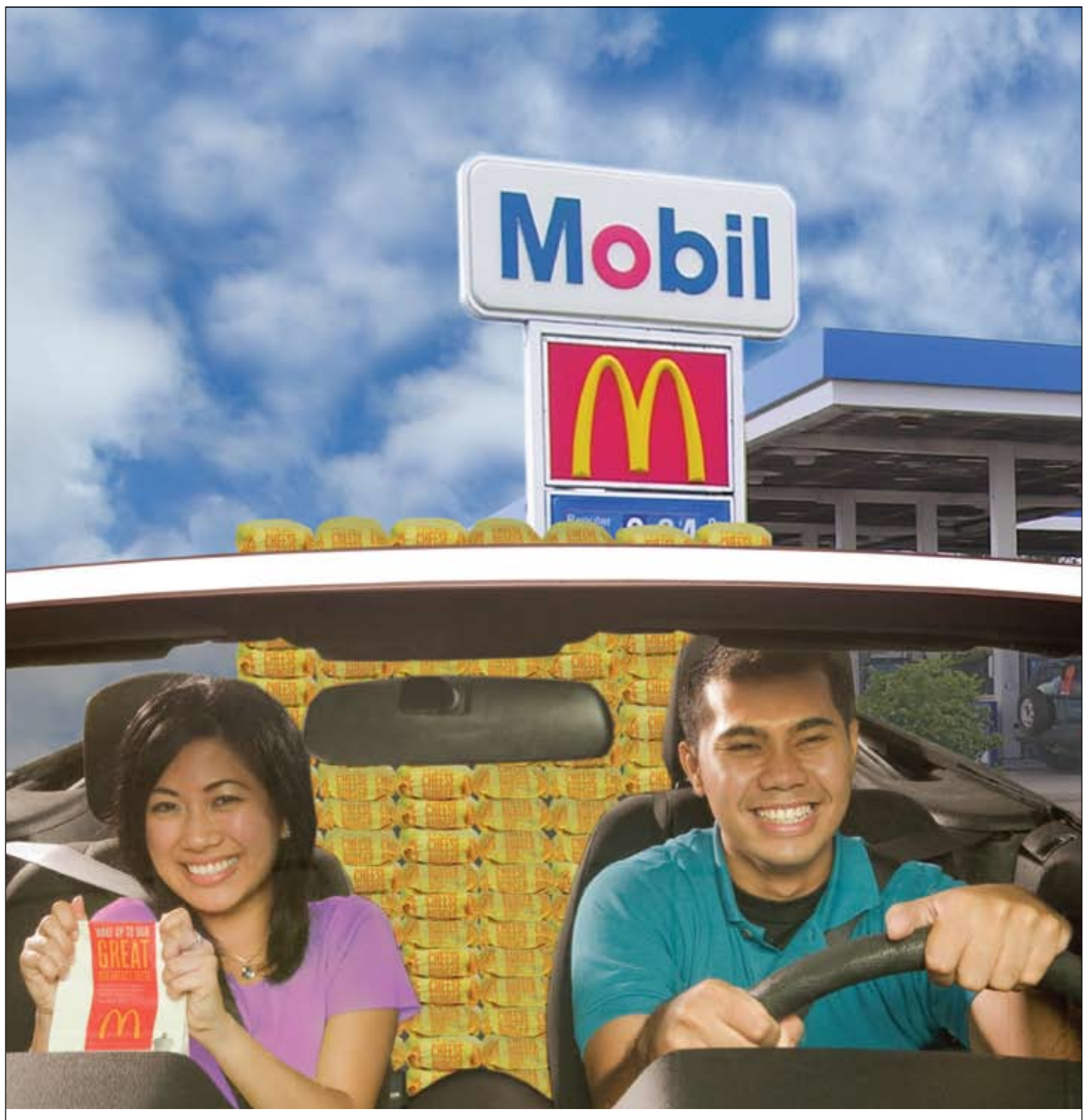
The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within three (3) working days from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 29th day of October, 2009.

/S/JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency



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*Weight before cooking at least 5.33 ozs. (151.1 gms)

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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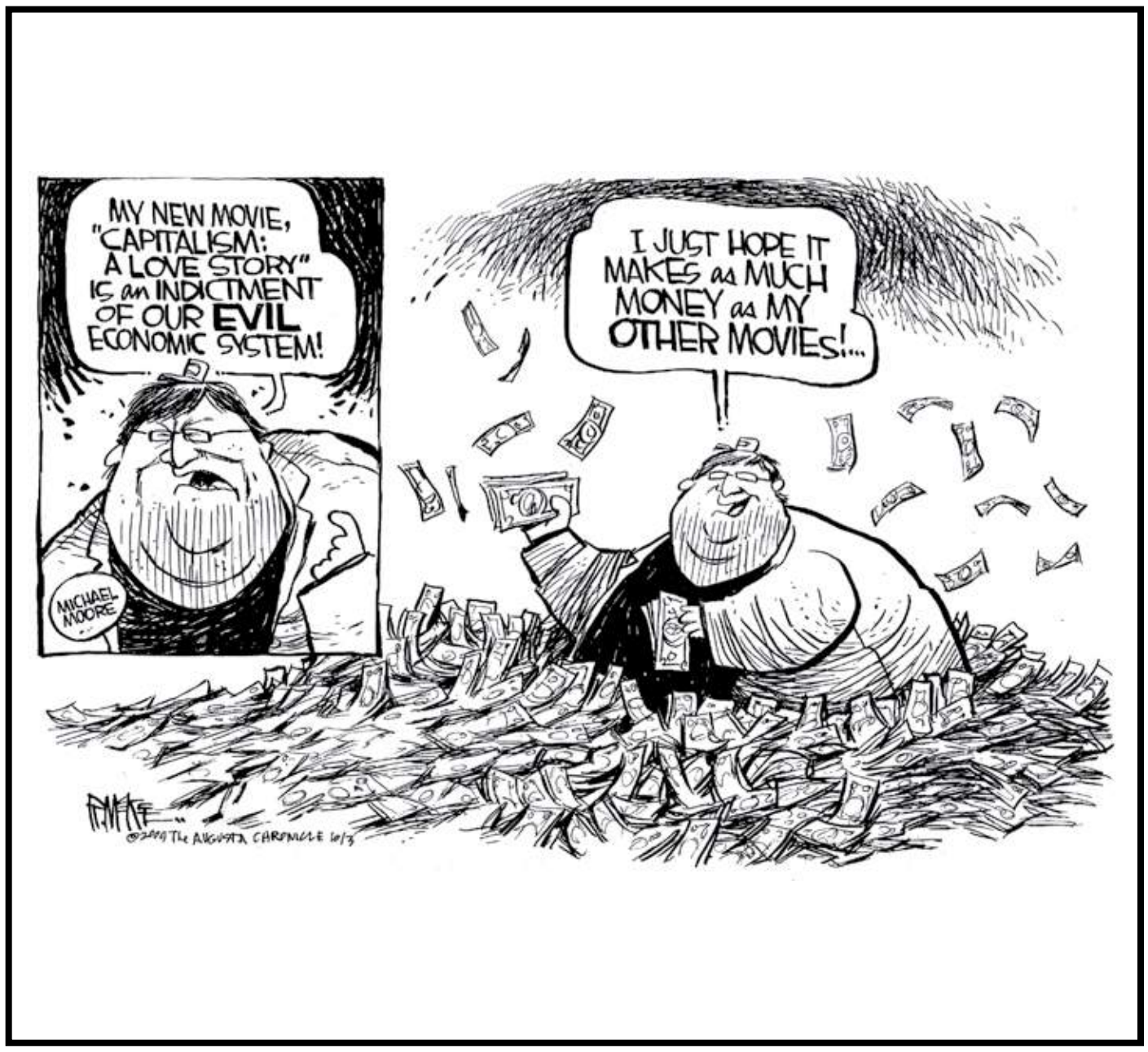
MY NEW MOVIE, "CAPITALISM: A LOVE STORY" IS an INDICTMENT OF OUR EVIL ECONOMIC SYSTEM!
I JUST HOPE IT MAKES as MUCH MONEY as MY OTHER MOVIES!...
MICHAEL MOORE

EDITORIAL

Plan B for Afghanistan: It looks a lot like the losing strategies of past years

President Obama kicked off his reconsideration of strategy in Afghanistan by questioning on national television whether the United States needed to keep supporting the Afghan government and army. But the alternatives the president appears to be considering do not depart so radically from the plan proposed by Gen. Stanley A. McChrystal. Mr. Obama told congressional leaders Tuesday that he did not intend to reduce U.S. troop levels or limit U.S. operations to drone attacks on al-Qaida. Nor, according to his national security adviser, would he give up on building the Afghan government and army.

The White House's Plan B would mainly amount to refusing Gen. McChrystal most of the additional U.S. troops he has requested—thereby saving the president a decision that would anger his political base. Instead of aiming to reverse the Taliban's momentum in the next year, as Gen. McChrystal proposed, the idea would be to rapidly build the Afghan army so that it could take over the fight and to focus U.S. initiatives on defeating al-Qaida in Pakistan.

Such a choice by Mr. Obama would hardly amount to a surrender in what he has called "a war of necessity." It would, however, repeat the strategic errors of the Bush administration—mistakes that left the mess the new administration is facing in Afghanistan and that brought Iraq to the brink of catastrophe three years ago.

In Iraq, Mr. Bush and his defense secretary, Donald H. Rumsfeld, also decided to minimize American troop levels; they launched an ambitious effort to train new Iraqi troops while emphasizing pinpoint strikes on al-Qaida and insurgent leaders. But the fresh Iraqi forces could not carry the fight on their own; as the insurgency grew stronger, sectarian conflict erupted in Baghdad and other areas. Only by launching the surge in 2007, which partnered American and Iraqi units in pacifying population centers, was Mr. Bush able to reverse the downward spiral. U.S. commanders absorbed the lesson: That is why Gen. McChrystal and nearly every other present or former U.S. commander in the region favor adapting the surge model to Afghanistan.

In Afghanistan, Mr. Bush's error was incrementalism—sending just enough reinforcements each year after 2003 to match the growing threat of the Taliban but never enough to turn the situation around. For several years, strikes on Taliban commanders were emphasized over taking and holding ground.

See PLAN B on Next Page

A new Pooh? Oh bother

By MARJORIE MILLER
(c) 2009, Los Angeles Times

Miller is an editorial writer at the Los Angeles Times.

As one who can see a cloud in any silver lining, I have a soft spot for Winnie-the-Pooh's melancholy friend, Eeyore. So I wasn't surprised to find myself agreeing with the donkey's gloomy prediction in the introduction to author David Benedictus' new book of Pooh stories, "Return to the Hundred Acre Wood," which was released this week. "He'll get it wrong," Eeyore says of the writer. "See if he doesn't."

This is the first authorized sequel to A.A. Milne's tales of the beloved bear, and it was clearly penned with all the care a conscientious and talented author could muster. And yet, even if Benedictus got it right, with great attention to the nuances that made us love Milne's original stories from the 1920s, he got it wrong. The guileless Pooh and his pals were just fine as we left them decades ago in the enchanted forest, where "a little boy and his Bear will always be playing."

Literature belongs to its era and can't simply be added to decades later, especially after the author has died. Call me cranky, but I don't think we need another Pooh book. And we certainly don't need a new character like the otter, Lottie, that Benedictus has added, even if she helps address a gender imbalance in the Hundred Acre Wood. Why couldn't Benedictus have made the haughty otter the hero of her own book, giving future generations of children a new story, while leaving intact the Pooh tales their parents and grandparents treasured?

There is an argument, of course, that the offense to Milne's characters was committed long ago. After his death in 1956, Milne's widow sold the rights to the Pooh characters to the Walt Disney Co., which went on to produce bastardized Pooh movies and every imaginable piece of merchandise, much of it bearing little resemblance to Milne's spirit or to Ernest H. Shepard's drawings in "Winnie-the-Pooh" and "The House at Pooh Corner," the only two books in the original series.

Imitation being the highest compliment, sequels and prequels are considered by many to be an homage. They are almost de rigueur, as Sherlock Holmes and Mr. Darcy know only too well. But to my mind there is a difference between this addition to the Pooh stories and something like Alice Randall's "The Wind Done Gone," which retold the "Gone With the Wind" story through the eyes of a slave, or Seth Grahame-Smith's Austen parody, "Pride and Prejudice and Zombies." Parody and reinvention are one thing; this, however, is but another example of the Hollywood malaise, an attempt to take a profitable brand and add new products, barely differentiating between the new and the old. Dutton Children's Books has issued hardback volumes of the originals and the sequel with nearly identical designs likely to confuse kids—or the adults who are buying.

"Who cares?" you ask. "What if the book is good?" Well, here's one reason. Imagine if Milne had dedicated himself to a sequel to Lewis Carroll's "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" because it was sure to sell. We never would have known Pooh, Piglet and Eeyore, and would have been poorer for it.

The genius of the Pooh classics is that Milne invented a magical place and unique characters, and he told us their stories in his own tiddley-pom voice—stories about a poetry-loving bear who thinks Grand Thoughts about Nothing when he can get his mind off honey. Milne brought us Eeyore, whose most positive offering is that "we haven't had an earthquake lately." I know what to expect from them, in part because they were playing out Milne's vision of who they were and how they would behave. In the new book, a different author controls their actions. Pooh is a tad more resourceful. And Eeyore is downright sociable, playing cricket and participating in the Harvest Festival. It's unsettling. How's a kid reading that to know what you mean when you call someone Eeyore?

And then there are the drawings. Shepard's Pooh is whimsical and muddled; his Christopher Robin is a boy of Britain between the wars, with his pageboy haircut, smock-like shirts and rain slicker. Shepard's lovely watercolor of Eeyore floating on his back will break your heart. And Piglet's anxiety is perfectly captured. In the new book, illustrator Mark Burgess gives us an honest effort to recreate the characters. They're sweet. They're not the same.

At the end of the new book, Piglet murmurs philosophically, "I wonder why things have to change?" The ever-hopeful Pooh responds, "It gives them a chance to get better."

Sometimes, perhaps. But in this case, I'm with Piglet.

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Writing an end to the policy of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell'?

By MEGHAN DAUM
Special to the Los Angeles Times

Daum is an essayist and novelist in Los Angeles. E-mail Daum at mdaum@latimescolumnists.com

Essay contests don't generally get a lot of mainstream attention. The Secretary of Defense National Security Essay Competition, for example—whose past winners and finalists have penned papers titled "Planning Convergence" and "Nation Building: A Joint Enterprise"—has never made media waves. Until this year: "The Efficacy of Don't Ask, Don't Tell," the winning entry, is a breakout hit.

Written by Col. Om Prakash while he was student at the National War College (he is now at the Pentagon), the essay offers a forceful rebuke of the 16-year-old policy. It claims there is no evidence openly gay soldiers negatively affect unit performance or morale and concludes that "it is not time for the administration to re-examine the issue; rather, it is time for the administration to examine how to implement the repeal of the ban."

The essay, published in Joint Forces Quarterly, a scholarly journal published by the National Defense University Press, was reviewed by Adm. Michael G. Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the nation's highest military officer, before publication.

Prakash devotes a considerable amount of thought to the concept of "unit cohesion," a term defined by Congress as "the bonds of trust among individual service members that make the combat effectiveness of a military unit greater than the sum of the combat effectiveness of the individual unit members."

Pointing out that countries such as Australia, Britain, Canada and Israel, which have lifted bans on gays in the military, have seen "no impact on military performance, readiness, cohesion or ability to recruit or retain," Prakash writes that the "don't ask, don't tell" policy "forces a compromise in integrity" that is ultimately "damaging to the unit cohesion its stated purpose is to preserve."

The views expressed in Joint Forces Quarterly do not necessarily reflect those of the Defense Department, but policy experts and pundits are seeing the attention paid to Prakash's essay as the latest harbinger of major political change on the issue. Gabriel Winant of Salon.com pointed out that Lt. Daniel Choi, an Arabic linguist who was discharged from the National Guard earlier this year after announcing he was gay during a TV interview, has been invited to speak at his alma mater, West Point. Nathaniel Frank, author of "Unfriendly Fire: How the Gay Ban Undermines the Military and Weakens America" and a senior research fellow at the University of California, Santa Barbara's Palm Center, calls the Prakash paper a watershed.

"The Joint Forces article doesn't mean that Mullen and the military are prepared to repeal overnight," Frank told me. "But it does represent a notable contrast from the tone we were seeing even a year ago. In my experience talking to countless people in the military, I've found that the people who excel are the people who are prepared. And what we're seeing may reflect a form of preparation for the tasks the military faces."

Pointing out that countries such as Australia, Britain, Canada and Israel, which have lifted bans on gays in the military, have seen "no impact on military performance, readiness, cohesion or ability to recruit or retain," Prakash writes that the "don't ask, don't tell" policy "forces a compromise in integrity" that is ultimately "damaging to the unit cohesion its stated purpose is to preserve."

Prakash points to a 2006 Zogby poll that found that even though 37 percent of service personnel in Iraq and Afghanistan disagreed with a repeal of "don't ask, don't tell", 45 percent reported that they suspected they were serving alongside a homosexual and 23 percent said they were certain of it (of that 23 percent, 59 percent were certain because the person had told them directly). Such reports, Prakash indicates, suggest there is already a tacit acceptance of gay troops, although he also admits that the military has hurdles to overcome if it switches to open acceptance.

Beyond its support for the cause of repealing "don't ask, don't tell," the article provides chapter and verse against the general argument that gay rights and gay people diminish heterosexual rights and people. Its straightforward assessment of unit cohesion—complete with explorations of "task cohesion" and "social cohesion" and which is more important to military success (it's task cohesion)—is all but a primer on how "lack of unit cohesion" has become code for something else: namely, old-fashioned bigotry.

It seems clear that the idea that gay people pose a threat to the social fabric—another way of saying "unit cohesion"—is not going to disappear tomorrow, nor will it probably ever go away entirely.

For a while, it looked like it would get its biggest push toward oblivion in the domestic realm, with the acceptance of gay marriage, but perhaps it will be the issue of gays in the military that reaches the tipping point first. In any case, that adage about everything being fair in love and war may soon take on a greater resonance—on the battlefield if not yet at the altar.

We must think about disasters before they happen

By OAKLEY BROOKS
Special to the Los Angeles Times

Brooks is writer in residence at the Earth Observatory of Singapore and at work on a book about natural hazards in Sumatra.

PADANG, Indonesia—I went to a flattened college Saturday. The names of the dead were scrawled on a sliver of salvaged dry-erase board. A crowd of gawking teenagers hovered near an excavator working the rubble, along with the dowdy, fidgeting headmistress. Periodically sobbing parents were hanging about in the background. When the searchers reached five students crushed below a staircase, and soldiers emerged from the rubble bearing black body bags, a grim practice followed: A rescue worker would bring a student's putrid backpack or purse to a shocked mother or father to confirm whom they'd found. And the waiting youngsters with camcorders and cell phone cameras flocked around the scene like moths to a light.

"It's Indonesian culture," said a young social worker from Jakarta, watching the scrambling crowds.

I'll raise him one. It's universal culture. The innate drama of life and death, ramped up by natural disaster. Survivors and observers—we're always the obliging spectators, either pushing the boundaries of decency on site or sitting on the couch at home.

Here's the real trouble with this culture: We haven't figured out how to convert our post-disaster fascination into an enthusiasm for pre-disaster adaptation. We don't quite know how, or aren't quite willing to convert, a robust body of information about hazards into action, especially in the developing world.

An earthquake, tsunami and typhoon-filled week like the last one only confirms our preference for reacting to hazards after the fact. West Sumatra's situation is one of the most frustrating. More than 70 aid agencies and millions of dollars worth of help are pouring in here, as they should, with the right spirit even if aid doesn't get to the neediest. But another point of urgency might have come almost five years ago after the Aceh earthquake and tsunami to the north, when scientists, using a history of earthquakes extracted from offshore corals, unequivocally forecast more major activity and tsunami potential along the Sunda megathrust fault here.

The West Sumatran government in Padang, however, seemed only mildly interested in motivating people to change—offering little in the way of education or proactive urban planning in a compact city of 900,000 squeezed in next to the ocean. The attitude changed after a hard shake from a magnitude 7.9 quake offshore in 2007, and there have been efforts since then to identify tsunami escape roads and safe buildings. The irony is that many of the tall buildings identified as havens in case of a tsunami crumbled in last week's quake.

And scientists say another great earthquake, up to magnitude 8.8, is still in store for West Sumatra within a generation.

Padang is a prime example of our modern hazard problems: heedless growth on the site of a series of historic, great earthquakes and tsunamis, one of which flattened what was a small trading town in 1797. We're amassing too many people in risky places, such as earthquake-prone Tehran and Istanbul, and the U.S. Gulf Coast and West Coast, where seismic, hurricane and other threats are clear and population numbers and development patterns promise to turn a bad event into an all-out humanitarian crisis. Potential sea-level rise and more frequent tropical storms because of global warming will only compound the risk.

Governments cannot be counted on to manage the situation—not in China's Sichuan province, where shoddy construction and little oversight from corrupt bureaucrats led to at least 5,000 dead schoolchildren in last year's earthquake, or in the American West, with its spreading population on the fire-prone forest fringe and along myriad fault lines.

In the developing world, humanitarian organizations are making disaster risk reduction a new priority. But where scientists have outlined natural hazards, we need a grass-roots movement to prepare and adapt to the hazards.

In West Sumatra, before the government began to act after Aceh, a group of Padang students backed by conscientious elders and informed by scientists went door to door to explain the risk of tsunamis and the need to move to high ground after a big earthquake. Now the local government treats the members of the Tsunami Alert Society as advisers. It remains to be seen if a culture of resilient building can germinate here, where concrete offices, hotels and houses for the wealthy looked strong but proved deadly last week.

Building one's life around sporadic events seems like an unnecessary worry in the workaday world, for people in West Sumatra as on California's San Andreas Fault. But the long history of earthquake faults and other natural phenomena fits us into a compelling story spread over the centuries, a tale populated by people and societies that have ignored that history at their peril, and brings meaning to today's seemingly random events and an urgency to getting prepared. Already in the remote Mentawai Islands, 90 miles west of Padang, some villagers are uprooting themselves and moving closer to the hills in the face of new tsunami risk and evidence in the historical record. "They say this low land here was ocean in the past and might be again," Alpaus, a former village head on one of the islands, said in July in a recently constructed settlement close to a steep, tsunami-safe ridge.

The choices seem tougher in urban Padang and Los Angeles and all around the modern and modernizing world. Days ago, Sumatran businesswoman Yenni Gunawan admitted to an Indian geophysicist at a hotel here that she had never paid attention to what he and his colleagues had to say about seismic dangers. But her shop in Padang's Chinatown was heavily damaged in the earthquake. Now she is considering moving to eastern Sumatra with some close friends.

"What would you do?" Gunawan asked the scientist.

"This thing can possibly be beat with smart construction," he said.

"That takes a long time," she groaned, and walked off, undecided.

One thing is for sure: Standing and watching is out of the question.

PLAN B

From Page 6

The alternative to Gen. McChrystal's plan would essentially perpetuate that losing effort. It likely would mean accepting hundreds more deaths of U.S. and allied troops in the next year without significant progress against the Taliban; probably there would be further losses of ground. It would mean decreased leverage over the Afghan and Pakistani governments, which would be less willing to go along with the objectives of an administration that was curtailing its own commitments. It would damage the effort to persuade Taliban fighters and low-level commanders to switch sides. And it could doom the effort to create an Afghan army that could pacify the country on its own.

Gen. McChrystal concluded in his recent review of the Afghan situation that a "failure to gain the initiative and reverse insurgent momentum in the near-term (next 12 months)—while Afghan security capacity matures—risks an outcome where defeating the insurgency is no longer possible." Mr. Obama seemed, at first, to be questioning whether defeating the Taliban was necessary. By resolving to maintain troop levels as they are, he has chosen to continue the fight. The question that remains is whether Mr. Obama will prefer the risk of defeat that the general outlined to the costs of sending tens of thousands of more American forces. The latter course does not guarantee success by any means, but the former is a proven loser.

(c) 2009, The Washington Post

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲86° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼77°

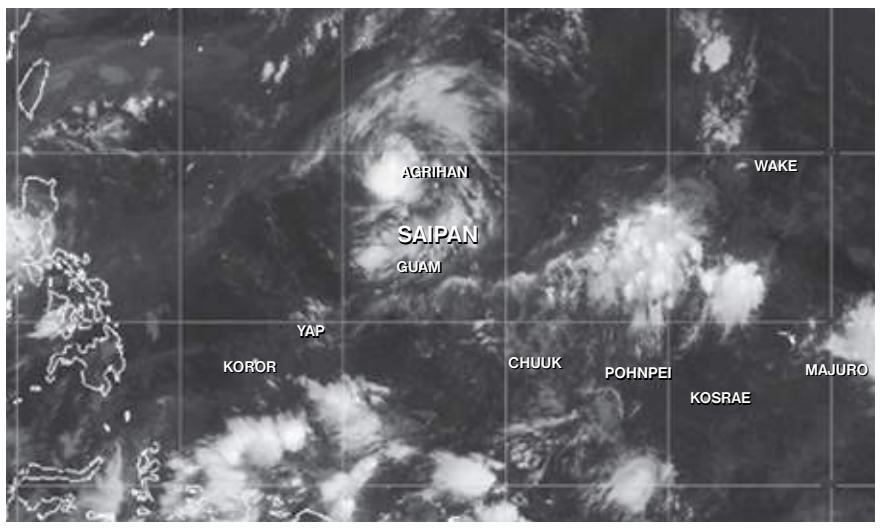
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲85	▼76
Palau	Partly Sunny	▲87	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Rain	▲88	▼77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲88	▼74
Kosrae	Showers	▲88	▼77
Majuro	Showers	▲85	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲62	▼51
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲75	▼48
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼77
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲83	▼76
London	Partly Sunny	▲63	▼50
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲72	▼56
Manila	Rain	▲85	▼76
Melbourne	Sunny	▲64	▼41
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲91	▼79
New York	Cloudy	▲69	▼52
Osaka	Partly Sunny	▲69	▼54
Paris	Partly Sunny	▲68	▼50
Pusan	Sunny	▲72	▼54
Rome	Thundrshowers	▲76	▼61
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲64	▼30
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲70	▼53
Seoul	Sunny	▲68	▼48
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲69	▼55
Washington, DC	Showers	▲72	▼52

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Newly formed tropical depression 21W is centered northwest of the Marianas near 17N143E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found over the Marianas between 21N and 12N from 141E to 147E. For more detailed information on tropical depression 21W, see bulletins issued by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM and by JTWC issued under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW. The monsoon trough stretches southeastward from tropical depression 21W through a circulation centered northwest of Kosrae near 7N161E then eastward past the dateline at 7N. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found north of the circulation near Kosrae between 16N and 10N from 154E to 166E. Scattered showers are located south of Pohnpei and Chuuk within 100 miles of a line from 6N151E to 1N162E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms north and east of Majuro within 110 miles of a line from 9N171E to 7N180. Converging west winds are producing scattered showers southeast of Koror within 90N miles of a line from 1N133E to 5N146E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

5:42 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
1:17 PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
6:16 PM Today	Low Tide:	1.4 Feet
10:44 PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:08 AM	6:00 PM
Sunday	6:08 AM	5:59 PM
Monday	6:08 AM	5:59 PM
Tuesday	6:08 AM	5:58 PM
Wednesday	6:08 AM	5:57 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:00 PM	11:31 AM
Sunday		12:27 PM
Monday	12:03 AM	1:20 PM
Tuesday	1:04 AM	2:09 PM
Wednesday	2:04 AM	2:53 PM

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

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- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 10, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:50am	12:25pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:20am	5:10am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
C09603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW99	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 5, 6
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	1, 3, 4, 6

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78	9:00am	11:40am	Last flights Oct 10 and 12

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	1, 3, 4, 6 via KIX
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/703	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/933	3:30pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:45am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:15am	3:50am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:10am	2:40am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09598	2:10am	3:50am	5, 6 via ROP
C09316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:20am	11:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW77	6:35pm	1:40am+1	2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
NW100	8:40pm	1:20am+1	1, 4, 5, 7 effective Oct 1

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	2, 3, 5, 7

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW77	9:10pm	1:40am	Last flight Oct 11

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	4, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	2, 3, 5, 7 via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA-SAIPAN

OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:50pm	2:30pm+1	3, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	4, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad
Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 5:30am (Tagalog); 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville
Sunday Services
9:00 AM
Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158
Pastor JJ Matsumoto

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
English Service: 9-11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Saipan Bible Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio
Sunday
9am Sunday school
10am Regular worship
6pm worship
Wednesday
7pm worship
Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.

Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Oct. 10, 2000

Investors pledge $25 million investment

In what could be the biggest tourism investment in the Northern Marianas after so many years, a newly-formed business corporation comprised mostly of Korean business players is embarking on its first multi-million dollar project to develop an international shooting resort in the CNMI. Union Rich Saipan, a development company that's also planning to build major commercial infrastructures on the islands, is prepared to invest over $25 million for the construction of "shooting resorts," said its company Chief Executive Officer Se-ung Kim. Mr. Roman Matsomoto, Union Rich Saipan local representative, said $25 million is only the minimum investment for the proposed shooting ranges to be built on Saipan, Tinian and Rota. He added the total amount for the establishment of the recreational facilities could go up to $45 million.

Garment industry pours $80M into CNMI coffers

The garment industry provided over a third of the total revenues of the government in 1999, or nearly $80 million of the taxes and fees collected in the CNMI, according to the Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association. Based on preliminary statistics, SGMA said of the total amount, $42 million were collected in users fees paid by garment manufacturers as well as $17 million in wage and salary taxes. Some $7 million were paid in utility fees, about $4.5 million to the Department of Labor and Immigration for processing of work permit, and nearly $3 million to the Commonwealth Ports Authority for seaport fees, the group said in a statement.

Oct. 10, 2001

Teno: Don't be afraid

With alert levels at their highest since the Gulf War, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio sought to assure people in the CNMI that steps are now being taken to ensure their safety and security, in the wake of the US attack on Afghanistan. "I would like to assure the members of the community that we're working very closely with the Department of Public Safety and all the other agencies here in the CNMI and we also continue to meet with officials of federal agencies to update us on what is going on," Tenorio said. He told reporters that he has already met with some of his staff members on Monday "and we discussed some of the concerns that were raised and I was assured that they will continue meeting with federal officials and other members of the agencies that need assistance."

US Navy: No imminent threat of bioterrorism in the Pacific

The United States Navy yesterday said there is no imminent threat of a biological weapons attack by terrorists in the entire Pacific region, including the CNMI. This, even as the CNMI was placed on the highest level of alert after local law enforcement officials met with Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio Monday, right after the US and its allies launched their attacks on Afghanistan's Taliban regime, which reportedly coddles terrorist leader Osama bin Laden. "This area continues to be accessed as 'low' threat for an attack," said Lt. Monica M. Richardson, public affairs officer of the Naval Forces Marianas, in an email sent to the *Saipan Tribune*. "However security measures have been put in place to deter such an attack."

Oct. 10, 2002

Senate 'raid' raises questions

Still stunned a day after FBI agents raided his Saipan Legislative Office over allegations of misconduct, Rota Sen. Ricardo S. Atalig had lingering questions he wants answered: One, why was the FBI involved? And two, why were he and Tinian Sen. Jose M. Dela Cruz singled out among other Senate members? Atalig, who was on Rota when federal agents searched his Saipan office, expressed confusion over the foray, saying if the investigation was really about the employment of Dela Cruz's daughter, then why was the FBI in the picture? "When they [FBI] called me and informed me about the search warrant, they told me it was about the employment of senator Dela Cruz's daughter. But I fail to see why the FBI has to be involved? This is a local matter. They should leave it to local authorities," Atalig said yesterday.

Business

Watchdog doubts goals of Obama loan relief plan

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration's effort to help homeowners avoid foreclosure may not achieve its goal of helping 3 million to 4 million borrowers and may simply delay mortgage defaults for many, a government watchdog group says.

The Congressional Oversight Panel, charged with making regular assessments of the $700 billion financial rescue fund enacted last year, said the Treasury Department should consider whether to improve the current $50 billion program or adopt new programs to meet an expected rise in foreclosures fed by increased unemployment.

The panel's report is scheduled to be made public Friday.

It comes a day after the Treasury said its mortgage relief effort has helped 500,000 homeowners and that it was still on track to help up to 4 million homeowners within three years.

"We've put significant pressure on servicers to ramp up their efforts," said Housing Secretary Shaun Donovan. "We're holding them to higher performance standards."

But the oversight panel, chaired by Harvard law professor Elizabeth Warren, concluded that the foreclosure crisis has now moved beyond the subprime mortgage market that ensnared many homeowners, particularly low-income families. The program, the report states, was not designed to deal with foreclosures caused by unemployment.

"Serious concerns remain about the program's scope, scale and permanence," Warren told reporters in a conference call. "In particular it isn't clear that 500,000 modifications will be enough to put a serious dent in the foreclosure crisis or to dampen the impact of foreclosure on the broader economy."

Foreclosures, the report said, are now stalking families who took out conventional, fixed-rate mortgages and put down payments of 10 to 20 percent on homes that would have been within their means in a normal market.

Treasury's program, known as the Home Affordable Modification Program, "is targeted at the housing crisis as it existed six months ago, rather than as it exists right now," the report says.

Treasury spokeswoman Meg Reilly said Thursday that while the mortgage relief program is available to the jobless, "we continue to study further ways to help unemployed homeowners."

The oversight panel accepted the report by a vote of 3-2, with the committee's two Republican members voting against it.

Retailers say sales may finally be turning around

NEW YORK (AP)—Americans are finally spending a little more, but they're playing hard to get.

A tally of sales at top stores managed a gain in September for the first time in more than a year. It was a pleasant surprise for retailers, but analysts say shoppers still aren't coming in the door unless they see deep discounts.

The increase in the sales figure from the International Council of Shopping Centers and Goldman Sachs on Thursday was small—just 0.1 percent—yet significant because many analysts expected sales to keep falling, as they had since August 2008.

Shoppers are hungry for markdowns. Auto showrooms drew throngs of customers this summer because of Cash for Clunkers rebates. Home sales and construction are being fueled by a tax credit for first-time homebuyers and low mortgage rates and home prices.

At stores, they're keeping an eye out for sale signs.

"The tone is better, and I am encouraged, but it is still a very difficult environment where retailers have to promote in order to get shoppers to buy," said New York-based retail consultant Walter Loeb. "Overall, it's going to be a slow recovery."

By regular measures, it was a weak month. In the previous five Septembers, sales rose an average of 2.6 percent compared with the year before. Analysts figure stores will have to entice shoppers with discounts through the holiday season.

Laura Rogers of Erlanger, Ky., said she and her husband, who has a lawn care business, are doing all right financially but they don't want to add any more debt. She plans to trim her holiday shopping budget but has yet to decide by how much.

"We're more worried about what's ahead. We're not so sure," she said.

Overall, spending levels are about where they were in 2005, according to data provided by SpendingPulse, a service of MasterCard Advisors that estimates monthly U.S. sales from all types of payments, including cash and checks.

For the holidays, the National Retail Federation predicts Americans will spend $437.6 billion, about even with the $433.7 billion they spent four years ago.

Kohl's Corp. department store chain, Limited Brands Inc., which runs Victoria's Secret and Bath & Body Works, and accessories chain The Buckle Inc. all said their September sales rose at stores open more than a year.

J.C. Penney Co., Macy's Inc. and Target Corp. reported their same-store sales fell, but not as much as they had expected.

Nation

Police stop more than 1 million people on street

AP

George Lucas, left, and Courtney Bennett, stand near Lenox Avenue and 142nd Street in Harlem, New York, Friday Sept. 4, 2009. It's a location where Bennett has been stopped and searched by police, a policing tactic both men have experienced on multiple occasions.

NEW YORK (AP)—A teenager trying to get into his apartment after school is confronted by police. A man leaving his workplace chooses a different route back home to avoid officers who roam a particular street.

These and hundreds of thousands of other Americans in big cities have been stopped on the street by police using a law-enforcement practice called stop-and-frisk that alarms civil libertarians but is credited by authorities with helping reduce crime.

Police in major U.S. cities stop and question more than a million people each year—a sharply higher number than just a few years ago. Most are black and Hispanic men. Many are frisked, and nearly all are innocent of any crime, according to figures gathered by The Associated Press.

And the numbers are rising at the same time crime rates are dropping.

Ronnie Carr's experience was typical: He was fumbling with his apartment door after school in Brooklyn when plainclothes officers flashed their badges.

"What are you doing here?" one asked, as they rifled through his backpack and then his pockets. The black teenager stood there, quiet and nervous, and waited.

Carr said the officers told him they stopped him because he looked suspicious peeking in the windows. He explained that he had lost his keys. Twenty minutes later, the officers left. Carr was not arrested or cited with any offense.

"I felt bad, like I did something wrong," he said.

Civil liberties groups say the practice is racist and fails to deter crime. Police departments maintain it is a necessary tool that turns up illegal weapons and drugs and prevents more serious crime.

2nd man charged in slaying of central Ill. family

LINCOLN, Ill. (AP)—An Illinois man was charged with first-degree murder Thursday for allegedly helping beat to death the family of his brother's ex-wife.

Jason Harris, 22, of Armington, was charged with five counts of murder and one count of attempted murder, Logan County Sheriff Steve Nichols said. Identical charges were filed Oct. 2 against Harris' older brother, Christopher Harris, whose former father-in-law, Raymond "Rick" Gee, Gee's wife, Ruth, and three of their children were found bludgeoned to death in their home in the tiny central Illinois town of Beason on Sept. 21.

A 3-year-old daughter was found alive but seriously injured. She has been hospitalized since the attack.

Jason Harris' court-appointed attorney, Steven B. Skelton, said Thursday night that he didn't know anything about the specific accusations because he had not yet seen the charges or met with the defendant.

Skelton said Harris' first court appearance was scheduled for 3 p.m. Tuesday in Lincoln.

Harris was being held without bond. He already was in custody when the charges were filed Thursday. He his girlfriend, Jennifer C. Earnest, 24, and her mother, Sara A. Duncan, 43, of Sarasota, Fla., were arrested and charged Wednesday with obstruction of justice.

Harris' brother, Christopher Harris, 30, was divorced several years ago from Nicole Gee, whose father, his wife and three of their children were killed. Harris and Gee had reconciled, intended to marry again and recently had a second child together, his stepmom, Debbie Harris, told The Associated Press last week. She also said Harris was not capable of committing the crime and had no motive.

Police have said the five family members were killed by blunt force trauma preceded by a "violent struggle." Found dead along with the parents were 16-year-old Justina Constant, 14-year-old Dillen Constant and 11-year-old Austin Gee.

Swine flu put many hospitalized patients into ICU

One quarter of Americans sick enough to be hospitalized with swine flu last spring wound up needing intensive care and 7 percent of them died, the first such study of the early months of the global epidemic suggests.

That's a little higher than with ordinary seasonal flu, several experts said.

What is striking and unusual is that children and teens accounted for nearly half of the hospitalized cases, including many who were previously healthy. The study did not give a breakdown of deaths by age.

"Contrary to the perception among many people that this influenza, novel H1N1, is mild, these data vividly demonstrate that influenza can make you very, very ill," said Dr. William Schaffner, a Vanderbilt University flu expert and spokesman for the Infectious Diseases Society of America.

"Clearly, the best way to protect yourself and your family is to get vaccine as soon as it becomes available," said Schaffner, who had no role in the study but has consulted for swine flu vaccine makers.

The study was done by researchers at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, working with hospitals and state and local health departments. Results were published online Thursday by the New England Journal of Medicine.

A second study released by the journal revealed that swine flu had a profound effect on intensive care units in Australia and New Zealand from June through August—winter months and the normal flu season in the Southern Hemisphere. ***(AP)***

AP sources: FBI eyes terror suspect's travel talk

WASHINGTON (AP)—An Afghan immigrant accused of plotting a terror attack in New York City contacted accomplices there while making a cross-country drive from Denver, raising concerns among investigators that he was sending instructions to purchase more bomb-making chemicals, officials familiar with the case said.

Zazi

Terrorism investigators are trying to determine whether suspect Najibullah Zazi sent instructions to associates as he drove from Denver to New York last month, according to law enforcement officials. Such instructions could explain a critical missing piece of the high-profile terrorism case: why authorities could not find actual explosives.

Two officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the case, told The Associated Press that as Zazi drove, he was in communication with associates, and one of the officials said investigators believe the communications included instructions for the associates to purchase more chemicals for homemade bombs.

The officials did not describe the nature of the communication, but court documents indicate investigators have been examining Zazi's cell phone and e-mail traffic.

Asked Thursday about the Zazi communications, New York Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly declined to comment.

ACROSS THE NATION

Gun-toting Pa. soccer mom, husband found shot dead

LEBANON, Pa. (AP)—A suburban mother who became a voice of the gun-rights movement when she openly carried a loaded pistol to her daughter's soccer game was fatally shot Wednesday along with her parole-officer husband in an apparent murder-suicide at their home in Pennsylvania Dutch country, authorities said. Police released scant details about the deaths of Meleanie Hain, 31, and Scott Hain, 33, but said more information would be released Friday after their autopsies. "I'm devastated. I lost my daughter. I lost my best friend. The children lost their parents," Jenny Stanley, Meleanie Hain's mother, told WGAL-TV. Stanley added that the three children, ages 2, 6 and 10, are "hanging in there."

Astor's son convicted of looting her $200M fortune

NEW YORK (AP)—Brooke Astor's 85-year-old son was convicted Thursday of exploiting his philanthropist mother's failing mind and helping himself to her nearly $200 million fortune. Anthony Marshall now faces a mandatory jail sentence of at least one year—and perhaps as many as 25 years. Jurors delivered their verdict on the 11th full day of deliberations, ending a five-month trial that revealed the New York society doyenne's sad decline. She was 105 and had Alzheimer's disease when she died in 2007. The jury convicted Marshall of 14 counts, including first-degree grand larceny and scheming to defraud, but acquitted him on two charges, falsifying business records and another first-degree grand larceny count. His co-defendant, estate lawyer Francis X. Morrissey Jr., was convicted on all five charges, including scheming to defraud, conspiracy and forgery.

ACORN activists refuse to buckle to video scandal

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Armed with little more than pen and pad, ACORN organizer David Mazariegos hits inner-city streets to save his embattled employer rather than his usual mission of saving homes from foreclosure. Mazariegos approaches Jose and Maria Rodriguez on their patio surrounded by overflowing potted plants and a Virgin of Guadelupe statue and asks if they would speak at a news conference about how ACORN saved their house. Maria Rodriguez doesn't hesitate. "The only people who helped us were ACORN. We tried to negotiate with the bank, but they wouldn't listen," she says. "We paid $5,000 to a company to help us fix the loan. They took the money and didn't do anything."

Student allegedly stabs fellow student in UCLA lab

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A female UCLA student was hospitalized Thursday after a fellow student slashed her throat in a chemistry lab on campus, authorities said.

The suspect, a male student, was arrested in the same chemistry building shortly after the stabbing. UCLA spokesman Phil Hampton said the victim and suspect were both 20-year-old seniors taking an organic chemistry class along with other students who were in the undergraduate teaching lab at the time. The woman underwent surgery for multiple stab wounds at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, and was in stable condition Thursday night, Los Angeles police said.

Asia

Afghanistan, Pakistan: 1 war, 2 fronts

KABUL (AP)—The suicide attack on the Indian Embassy in Kabul on Thursday lays bare the reality that this conflict is a single war with multiple fronts that extend from Afghan battlefields to Pakistan's fractured political scene and include the vital interests of India and the United States.

The bomber detonated an explosives-packed SUV near the outer perimeter wall of the Indian Embassy compound, killing at least 17 people—all Afghans—and wounding nearly 80 others including three Indian security guards. The Taliban claimed responsibility.

International efforts to end Afghanistan's violence are complicated because the major players see their interests differently. The U.S. goal is to prevent al-Qaida from regaining its bases in Afghanistan, where it trained militants and plotted the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks in New York and Washington.

Pakistan, with archrival India to the east, believes it needs a friendly government in Afghanistan on its western border, preferably one without close ties to the Indians. For its part, India seeks regional allies and access to oil- and gas-rich central Asia.

As the war enters its ninth year, President Barack Obama is considering whether to focus the fight in Afghanistan against al-Qaida's allies in the Taliban or shift to more missile strikes and special operations raids against al-Qaida in Pakistan, a nuclear-armed country where the terror movement's leadership is believed hiding.

Whatever option Obama chooses, the administration must wrestle with the fact that neither Afghanistan nor Pakistan can be secure as long as instability plagues the other. Militants move freely from one country to another, sheltering among the ethnic Pashtun community that lives on both sides of the border.

Pakistani tribesmen loosely allied with the Afghan Taliban have ambushed convoys carrying supplies to NATO forces in Afghanistan.

SKorea, Japan say no aid until NKorea disarms

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—The leaders of South Korea and Japan took a united front Friday in saying North Korea should not be offered aid until the communist regime takes concrete steps to dismantle its nuclear weapons program.

Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama said he agreed with South Korean President Lee Myung-bak's view on withholding aid to Pyongyang "as long as North Korea does not take specific actions" over its nuclear and missile programs.

The two leaders held a summit Friday in Seoul before they are to head to Beijing for a three-way summit with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao.

Lee's proposal to offer a one-time "grand bargain" of aid and concessions in exchange for denuclearization—rather than the step-by-step process pursued over the past six years—is "completely correct," Hatoyama said.

Their comments reflects the skepticism Seoul and Tokyo share about North Korea, both countries' neighbor, which has been accused of raising tensions and then agreeing to dialogue and disarmament, only to backtrack after reaping the economic and political benefits of its promises.

Lee said he is confident North Korea will return to international nuclear talks after Pyongyang holds direct negotiations with Washington. He reiterated the need for a "fundamental and comprehensive solution" to the nuclear impasse to ensure that "past negotiating pattern will not be repeated."

Myanmar democracy leader Suu Kyi meets diplomats

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar's junta leader has allowed detained Myanmar pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi to meet Western diplomats to discuss sanctions imposed against the military-ruled country, government officials said Friday.

The Nobel Prize winner, who remains under house arrest, was driven to a government guesthouse to meet with diplomats of the United States, Great Britain and Australia, according to the officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the press.

Suu Kyi sent a letter to junta leader Senior Gen. Than Shwe on Sept. 26, stating her willingness to cooperate with the military government to have the sanctions lifted and seeking permission to meet with Western diplomats in order to understand positions of governments that imposed the sanctions.

After the letter, Myanmar Relations Minister Aung Kyi met with Suu Kyi twice within a week. The second meeting took place Wednesday.

Details of these talks have not been disclosed.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Taiwan court upholds ex-president's detention

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Taiwan's High Court on Friday upheld its earlier decision to keep former President Chen Shui-bian in detention after the Supreme Court ordered it to hold a hearing on the matter, an official said. The Supreme Court had questioned the High Court's contention two weeks ago that Chen posed a flight risk while he appeals his life sentence on wide-ranging graft charges. Court spokesman Wen Yao-wen said it decided to keep Chen in detention out of concern he may still flee the island if released. "The defendant knows about ways to escape better than ordinary people," Wen said. "As he and his family own significant assets abroad, he can still afford an affluent lifestyle overseas." Chen's lawyer, Chen Wen-lung, said he will refile an appeal of the detention.

Sri Lanka goes dark in nationwide blackout

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—An official says a power blackout plunged all of Sri Lanka into darkness for a few hours Friday because of a technical fault at an electricity distribution center. A spokesman for the power and energy ministry says the blackout affected almost all parts of the Indian Ocean island nation for few hours early Friday. Spokesman Harsha Abeykoon says engineers found it was due to a technical fault at the main distribution center and a burnt cable connected to the national grid. He says power has already been restored in some parts. Sri Lanka largely depends on hydropower to generate electricity.

China pledges to protect foreign media

BEIJING (AP)—President Hu Jintao pledged Friday that Beijing would protect the rights of international news organizations reporting in China. Hu also said in an opening speech to a meeting of global media leaders that news organizations had an obligation to help keep peace in the world. "We will continue to make government affairs public, enhance information distribution, safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of foreign news organizations and reporters, and facilitate foreign media coverage of China in accordance with China's laws and regulations," Hu told the World Media Summit at the Great Hall of the People.

World

AP

Police officers clash with a supporter of Honduras' ousted President Manuel Zelaya, wearing a T-shirt that reads in Spanish: "The fight continues," during a demonstration outside the hotel where representatives of Zelaya and Honduras' interim government are met with representatives of the Organization of American States, OAS, in Tegucigalpa, Thursday, Oct. 8, 2009.

Diplomats leave; talks go on in Honduras crisis

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP)—Diplomats pushed the two sides of the Honduran political conflict into direct talks for the first time in nearly three months, but left the country Thursday with no commitment from the coup-installed government to reinstate ousted President Manuel Zelaya.

Members of the delegation sponsored by the Organization of American States characterized the result of their one-day visit—the establishment of a "table of dialogue" and an agenda for the talks—as a positive step even though the rivals appeared as far apart as ever.

Costa Rican Foreign Minister Bruno Stagno said representatives of Zelaya and the government of interim President Roberto Micheletti agreed to discuss the main international proposal for resolving the crisis and will have "logistical" support from OAS staff left behind.

Any resolution, however, will be in their hands.

"This is going to be an exclusively Honduran dialogue," Stagno told reporters as the delegation headed to the airport. "This is a divided family and they have to reconcile."

The depth of that division was clear as Stagno spoke: About 200 pro-Zelaya supporters massed boisterously at the front door of the hotel where the direct talks are held, calling for the ousted leader's return. Dozens of police, some in riot gear with tear gas at the ready, blocked them from entering the building and they left after about an hour.

"The truth is they don't want a solution," 50-year-old protester Maritza Burgos said of the interim government. "They want to be in power, stay in power and keep President Manuel Zelaya, the only Honduran president, from getting back in office."

Palestinians accuse Hamas over UN report

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The militant Islamist group Hamas is trying to take cynical advantage of a U.N. report accusing Israel of possible war crimes in Gaza to curry favor back home, Palestinian Foreign Minister Riad Malki told reporters at U.N. headquarters Thursday.

The Palestinian Authority initially pushed for the Security Council to look into accusations Israel used disproportionate force and failed to protect civilians during its Dec. 27-Jan. 18 incursion into Gaza.

Thirteen Israelis and almost 1,400 Palestinians were killed during the conflict. Israel has rejected the war crimes allegations, declining to cooperate with the probe, fearing bias.

The report also accuses Palestinian armed groups of possible war crimes in the Israeli-Hamas conflict last winter. Hamas, the Palestinian Authority's main rival, controls Gaza.

Last week, the Palestinian leadership backed off bringing the report before the Security Council under pressure from U.S., sparking harsh criticism, including angry protests at home and condemnation around the Arab world and causing them to reconsider their position.

"This clear crisis about the report proves that the Hamas position is really trying to exploit it, to its own favor, trying to take advantage of it, and really score points, rather than having a genuine principled position regarding the report," Malki said.

WORLD BRIEFS

French culture minister denies paying boys for sex

PARIS (AP)—France's culture minister denied Thursday paying boys for sex, in an impassioned response to critics on the right and left demanding that he resign over a candid book recounting encounters with male prostitutes in Thailand. "I condemn sexual tourism, which is a disgrace. I condemn pedophilia, which I have never in any way participated in," Frederic Mitterrand, 62, nephew of late President Francois Mitterrand, said in a national prime time television interview. "All those who accuse me of this kind of thing should be ashamed." In a 2005 book, "La mauvaise vie" or "The Bad Life," Mitterrand describes Bangkok's brothels in rich, torrid detail, and the joy and freedom of paying "boys" for sex.

Russian court hears Stalin's grandson's libel case

MOSCOW (AP)—A Moscow court began hearings Thursday in a libel suit brought by Stalin's grandson against a Russian newspaper that he claims called into question the Soviet dictator's honor and dignity. The grandson, Yevgeny Dzhugashvili, is demanding 10 million rubles ($340,000) compensation from the independent newspaper Novaya Gazeta. He contests its claims in an April 22 article that Josef Stalin personally signed execution orders for thousands of Soviet and foreign citizens. The article, titled "Beria Found Guilty," cited what it said were recently declassified Soviet archive documents that Stalin signed and handed to feared secret police chief Lavrenti Beria.

'Miracle' Hawaiian: Damien's already a saint

ROME (AP)—The Hawaiian woman whose recovery from lung cancer was called miraculous says the Belgian-born priest she prayed to is already a saint, even before the pope canonizes him Sunday. Audrey Toguchi, in Rome for the ceremony, says Father Damien's work with leprosy patients on a Hawaiian island in the 19th century showed people they are all special. Damien's was born Jozef De Veuster. He was beloved by the lepers he ministered to for 16 years before dying of the disease himself in 1889. Pope Benedict XVI decided Toguchi's apparently inexplicable healing from what doctors had described as terminal cancer was a miracle wrought through Damien's intercession.

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, October 10, 2009

Philippine mudslides, floods kill estimated 100

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Dozens of landslides in the rain-soaked mountains of the northern Philippines killed an estimated 100 people, as a lingering storm and excess water from dams turned a portion of one province into "one big river," officials said Friday.

The latest calamity brought the death toll to more than 400 from the Philippines' worst flooding in 40 years after back-to-back storms started pounding the country's north Sept. 26.

About 100 people were feared dead in landslides in two provinces—Benguet and Mountain—along the Cordillera mountain range, about 125 miles (200 kilometers) north of Manila, said Olive Luces, regional Office of Civil Defense director.

Landslides blocked the roads to the mountain city of Baguio in the heart of the Cordillera region and exact figures were hard to get.

"We are still accounting, but all in all our estimate is there were about 100 dead in the four major landslides," Luces said. "Retrieval operations are ongoing."

About 100 landslides have struck the region since the weekend, said Rex Manuel, another relief official.

Seventeen bodies have been recovered so far from Kibungan village in Benguet's La Trinidad township, which was almost entirely buried in mud and debris late Thursday, Manuel said. Up to 40 villagers were estimated to have died, while more than 100 were moved to safety, he said.

In Buyagan village, also in La Trinidad, only three out of about 100 houses remained visible after Thursday night's landslide buried most structures there. Some 50 residents were saved but it was not clear how many died, Manuel said.

In neighboring Mountain Province's Tadian township, at least 28 people were reported missing and several bodies were recovered after the side of a mountain collapsed.

Another landslide hit a second village in Tadian early Friday. No immediate casualty reports were available.

AP

A resident paddles his improvised float beside ducks at a still submerged town of Taytay, Rizal Province, Philippines on Wednesday Oct. 7, 2009.

Forecasters said Tropical Depression Parma was still lingering off the northeastern coast for more than a week, dumping rains overnight. It was the second major storm to hit the country in two weeks.

Thousands of residents of Pangasinan province, about 105 miles (170 kilometers) north of Manila, fled to rooftops and scrambled for safety after dams released excess water from recent heavy rains.

Pangasinan provincial Vice Gov. Marlyn Primicias said she was getting frantic text messages from residents asking to be rescued, adding: "Eastern Pangasinan has become one big river."

Heavy rains, plus water discharged late Thursday night from a dam in Pangasinan, inundated 30 out of 46 towns along the Agno River in the coastal province, said Boots Velasco, the province's information officer.

"There was really heavy rain, so water had to be released from the dam, otherwise it would have been more dangerous," said the government's chief forecaster Nathaniel Cruz. "Even our office was flooded and our staff had to move to the rooftop. It's near the river that they were monitoring."

Heavy army trucks could not penetrate the area, and Primicias appealed for helicopters and boats to move people out of danger.

Mayor Nonato Abrenica of the Pangasinan's Villasis township said rain and water released from a nearby dam caused floods to rise quickly, isolating his town. He asked for food, water and medicines to be airlifted and for boats to rescue stranded residents.

The government's disaster relief agency said it had requested that the U.S. Embassy redeploy hundreds of American troops from the massive cleanup in and around the capital, Manila, to the flood-hit areas in the north.

Two U.S. Navy ships were positioning in the Lingayen Gulf in Pangasinan to provide helicopters and rubber boats for the rescue mission in the province, said U.S. Marine Capt. Jorge Escatell. ***(Associated Press writers Hrvoje Hranjski and Oliver Teves in Manila and Mari Yamaguchi in Tokyo contributed to this report.)***

Defense chief asks US ship to help in Pangasinan rescue

MANILA, Philippines—Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro has requested the amphibious dock landing ship USS Harpers Ferry to help rescue residents isolated by heavy flooding in Pangasinan province, Secretary Hermogenes Esperon said Friday morning.

"The USS Harpers Ferry is on its way to Lingayen Gulf. It is coming from Subic. From there it will launch search and rescue operations," he said in a phone interview from Rosales, Pangasinan.

The ship could deploy helicopters and rubber boats to rescue residents stranded in their homes, said Esperon, chief of the Presidential Management Staff and Cabinet officer for eastern Pangasinan.

Two rubber boats —one each from Malacañang and the Northern Luzon Command—as well as six six-by-six trucks were being deployed for search and rescue operations, according to him.

"A chopper from Ft. Magsaysay just arrived here for search and rescue operations," he said.

Pepeng' moves towards South China Sea—Pagasa

Meanwhile, tropical depression "Pepeng" has slightly accelerated and has moved to the Luzon Sea as it continued to travel westward towards the South China Sea, the state-run weather bureau said Friday.

In its latest weather bulletin, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said Pepeng was seen 90 kilometers Northwest of Baguio City, packing maximum sustained winds of 55 kilometers per hour near the center and is forecast to move westward at 11 kph.

Signal no. 1 remains raised over Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, Abra, La Union, and Western Pangasinan while storm warning signals elsewhere have been lowered, Pagasa said.

"Residents in low-lying areas and near mountain slopes under signal #1 are advised to take all the necessary precautionary measures against flashfloods and landslides," the weather bureau warned.

By Saturday morning, Pepeng is expected to be 260 kms west northwest of Baguio City or at 250 kms west northwest of Dagupan City and at 540 kms west northwest of Dagupan City by Sunday morning. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

LABOR FRONT

Work permit possession

By FERDIE PONCE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Q: If an alien worker is unemployed, does he or she need to inform the Department of Labor about his or her current residence address?

A: According to Labor, a foreign national worker who is not currently employed under an approved employment contract (and therefore cannot be located at the previous employer's address) must provide a current residence address and telephone contact to the Labor director. The jobless worker must also update that information as necessary so that Labor may locate him or her.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: When an alien worker is on a boat during business hours does he or she need to carry his or her work permit?

A: Labor says that a foreign national worker must keep his or her entry permit or work permit in his or her personal possession at all times during the worker's working hours or when a plane or boat during business hours.

Labor defines "personal possession" as actual physical possession on the person or within the immediate reach of the person. Personal possession, Labor says, shall not be a requirement when the foreign national worker is receiving medical treatment or when physical possession would not be practicable, at which time the entry permit or work permit shall be kept within a reasonable distance of the worker.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: What is the important requirement for an alien worker to get an approved two-year contract?

A: The usual approved employment contract provides for a one-year term. According to Labor's Alien Rules and Regulations, an employer and employee may agree on a two-year term, provided however that a foreign national worker employed under a two-year contract must provide a new health certification within the first month of the second year under the contract. Employers with special needs or specialty jobs may contract for a shorter period of time than one year.

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Philippine province 'one big river' in new floods

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Fresh flooding hit about 30 towns in the northern Philippines on Friday, sending residents fleeing to rooftops and scrambling for safety after dams released excess water from recent heavy rains, officials said.

Pangasinan provincial Vice Gov. Marlyn Premicias said she was getting frantic text messages from residents asking to be rescued, adding: "Eastern Pangasinan has become one big river."

Rains and water discharged late Thursday night from a dam in Pangasinan inundated 30 out of 46 towns along the Agno River in the coastal province, said Boots Velasco, the province's information officer.

"There was really heavy rain, so water had to be released from the dam, otherwise it would have been more dangerous," said the government's chief forecaster Nathaniel Cruz. "Even our office was flooded and our staff had to move to the rooftop. It's near the river that they were monitoring."

Heavy army trucks could not penetrate the area and Premicias appealed for helicopters and boats to move people out of danger.

Forecasters said Tropical Depression Parma was still lingering off the northeastern coast, dumping rains overnight. It was the second major storm to hit the country in two weeks. Storms and flooding have killed more than 300 people since Sept. 26, including at least seven buried in a landslide in mountainous Benguet province Thursday, said Olive Luces, regional chief of the Office of Civil Defense.

Mayor Nonato Abrenica of the Pangasinan's Villasis township said rain and water released from a nearby dam caused floods to rise quickly, isolating his town. He asked for food, water and medicines to be airlifted and for boats to rescue stranded residents.

An anchorman of DZBB radio said text messages received by the station included an appeal from a hospital staffer in Villasis who described that patients had to be moved to the second floor to escape the floods. The message said there was no power and food in the hospital.

The government's disaster relief agency said it had requested the U.S. Embassy to redeploy hundreds of American troops from the massive cleanup in and around the capital, Manila, to the flood-hit areas in the north.

Two U.S. Navy ships were positioning in the Lingayen Gulf in Pangasinan to provide helicopters and rubber boats for the rescue mission in the province, said U.S. Marine Capt. Jorge Escatell.

In Japan, meanwhile, a powerful typhoon tore through the main island Thursday, peeling roofs off houses, cutting electricity to hundreds of thousands and forcing flight cancellations before turning back toward the sea. Four people died.

During morning rush hour, more than 2 million commuters in Tokyo were stranded for hours as train services on several lines were suspended, while in other regions trucks were toppled on highways and bridges were destroyed by flash floods.

By evening, Typhoon Melor was downgraded to a tropical storm as it lost power over northern Japan. It was due to veer off the northeastern coast Thursday evening.

Nearly 100 people were injured and more than 11,000 people were evacuated to shelters, according to the Fire and Disaster Management Agency.

News broadcasts showed the damage left by the storm as it moved northeast across the country - partially submerged cars, large shipping containers scattered by the wind, and damaged buildings with ceilings and walls torn away. Footage also showed huge waves crashing over storm barriers onto coastal roads. —

Associated Press writers Hrvoje Hranjski in Manila and Mari Yamaguchi in Tokyo contributed to this report.

Imelda Marcos' shoe collection saved from floods

Philippine former first lady Imelda Marcos points to some of her shoes on display in this Feb. 16, 2001 file photo at the opening of the Shoe Museum in suburban Marikina City. AP

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—When a powerful storm inundated the Philippines last month, most people rushed to save their homes or their lives. Employees of one museum, however, grabbed the shoes.

The museum houses more than 800 pairs donated by former first lady Imelda Marcos, and many were threatened on Sept. 26 by knee-deep water levels inside the Marikina Shoe Museum in Marikina city, capital of the Philippine shoe industry.

But curator Dolly Borlongan said the staff quickly moved the collection to the top shelves of display cabinets, and only around 100 got wet. Those were cleaned and are drying.

Marikina, east of Manila, was one of the hardest hit areas of the country when Tropical Storm Ketsana swept in, killing nearly 300 people in and around the capital and leaving thousands homeless.

The flamboyant widow of dictator Ferdinand Marcos will forever be remembered for her dazzling jewels and the 1,220 pairs of shoes she left behind in the presidential palace after a popular revolt toppled her husband in 1986. Marcos returned from U.S. exile in 1991.

The shoes include pairs made in Marikina as well as intricately beaded or gold-trimmed imported ones from such luxury houses as Charles Jourdan, Gucci and Ferragamo.

Philippines lags behind UN anti-poverty goals

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines lags behind the United Nations' targets to cut poverty by 2015, with the number of poor Filipinos on the rise, officials said Wednesday.

The latest government data showed poverty rose from 30 percent of the population in 2003 to 33 percent in 2006 — or one in three Filipinos surviving on $1 a day. The Philippine population is estimated at 90 million.

The Philippines also was lagging in the fight against HIV/AIDS, and was least likely to achieve two others goals — making primary education universal and reducing maternal deaths, U.N. officials told reporters.

More than 5 million children are out of school and 93 newborn babies and 11 mothers are dying every day while HIV and AIDS cases are on the rise, said U.N. Population Fund Representative Suneeta Mukherjee.

HIV cases among those aged 15 to 24 have nearly tripled from 41 in 2007 to 110 in 2008, the U.N. said. Overall, less than 0.1 percent of the adult population was estimated to be HIV-positive, the U.S. Agency for International Development said.

Ramon Falcon, an official from the Philippine National Economic Development Authority, said while data was not yet available, the global economic crisis and natural calamities such as recent devastating floods that hit the capital, Manila, may have further increased the ranks of the poor.

Minar Pimple, deputy director for Asia of the U.N. Millennium Campaign, said what was required was a "very strong political will ... a delivery system which is efficient, which does not allow any slippage, leakage and corruption to erode it."

PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

Landslide kills 6 Philippine health workers

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A government disaster agency says a landslide has buried a rural health center, killing six health workers in a Philippine province. The Regional Disaster Coordinating Council reported Thursday that the ground, saturated by recent monsoon rains, crashed onto the rural health unit building in Palawan province's Taytay township around noon the day before. The area is about 280 miles (450 kilometers) southwest of Manila. Officials say the landslide was not caused by rains from a recent tropical storm that battered other parts of the country.

Strong earthquake hits near Philippines

WASHINGTON (AP)—A strong earthquake struck south of the Philippines on Wednesday, the U.S. Geological Survey reported. The quake had a preliminary magnitude of 6.7 and was located in the Celebes Sea, 175 miles southeast of Jolo, Sulu Archipelago, and 730 miles south of Manila. The quake hit at 5:41 p.m. EDT, or 5:41 a.m. Thursday local time. USGS did not report any damages or injuries.

2 wounded in Jolo blast blamed on militants

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines (AP)—Muslim militants with ties to al-Qaida planted a bomb that wounded two civilians in the southern Philippines and in a separate attack shelled a runway near where U.S. counterterrorism troops are based, officials said Thursday.

There were no casualties among American or Filipino troops in the Abu Sayyaf attack on the airport on Jolo Island, where two U.S. troops died in a land mine blast last week, officials said.

On neighboring Basilan Island, another Abu Sayyaf stronghold, a homemade bomb packed with nails and hidden in a trash bin exploded late Wednesday, wounding a man and a woman, Lamitan town police chief Roland Democrito said.

"It was raining hard, and that probably helped prevent more casualties. Otherwise the area is packed with people," he said.

No one has claimed responsibility, but police blamed the Abu Sayyaf, the prime suspect in a series of terrorist attacks and ransom kidnappings in the southern Philippines. The militants are believed to be receiving funds from al-Qaida and are on the U.S. list of terrorist organizations.

The Abu Sayyaf is believed to have about 400 fighters, and is suspected of sheltering militants from the larger Southeast Asian terrorist group Jemaah Islamiyah.

On Jolo, where the Abu Sayyaf has jungle strongholds and has evaded joint Philippine and U.S. military operations for years, Philippine security forces foiled an attack Tuesday on the military airport base, military spokesman Maj. Ramon David Hontiveros said.

He said the militants fired one mortar round at the end of the runway while they fled from troops pursuing them. Soldiers recovered six more unexploded rounds near the airport Wednesday, he said.

Last week, two U.S. Army Special Forces soldiers were killed when their military convoy ran over a land mine that was believed to have been planted by the Abu Sayyaf. Hours later, the militants damaged a bridge that was used to transport troops and equipment.

An estimated 600 U.S. troops are currently stationed in the southern Philippines to train and advise Filipino soldiers fighting the militants. They are barred by Philippine law from engaging in direct combat.

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Amend Insurance law to include 'acts of God'—senator

By MAILA AGER
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—Senator Aquilino Pimentel Jr. wants the Insurance law amended to cover "acts of God" in comprehensive insurance policies of car owners.

Pimentel made the proposal on Friday as he assailed the "strict but deceptive "policy of insurance companies when they refused to indemnify owners of motor vehicles damaged or destroyed by typhoons as they were "acts of God" and beyond the scope of the insurance plan.

He was convinced that insurance firms have been deliberately using the "acts of God" provision of the law "to evade payments, leaving the car owners' insurance useless to protect them from such contingency."

"What is the use of having a comprehensive insurance policy, which applies even to car theft but excludes so-called acts of God like floods?" asked the senator.

"I find that a little unfair. And it looks like we have been had because in the United States, if you say comprehensive insurance, that includes all contingencies. There is no reference to acts God as exceptions," he said.

Pimentel said, "Perhaps we have to revisit the insurance policies that are issued in this country, comprehensive but does not cover so-called acts of God. What kind of comprehensive insurance would that be if one's car, for example, gets destroyed because there was flooding and they call it an act of God?"

What makes the reasoning of insurance firms "invalid and unacceptable," the senator said, was the fact that the widespread heavy flooding in Metro Manila and nearby provinces was due partly to man-made causes.

"In other words, the non-cleaning of drainages, the precipitate opening of the dams these are acts of men, not of God. Why do we blame God for the things that we are doing in this country? This is something that defies imagination," he said.

He said the hapless car owners could not compel the insurance firms to pay up unless somebody will try to fight it out in the courts.

But the ultimate remedy to this problem, Pimentel said, would be to amend the law to remove its 'act of God' provision.

'Pepeng' crop, infrastructure damage now P429M—exec

By KATHERINE EVANGELISTA
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—Total damages to agriculture and infrastructure due to heavy rains brought by tropical depression "Pepeng" (international name: Parma) in Region 1 has reached P429 million, an official from the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council (RDCC) said Friday.

In a telephone interview, Chief Superintendent Ramon Gatan, Region 1 RDCC Director, said that damage to agriculture and infrastructure in the provinces of La Union, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, and Pangasinan were estimated at P239 million and P190 million respectively.

At least 27 towns in Pangasinan, 11 in La Union, six in Ilocos Norte, and one in Ilocos Sur were under water, Gatan said.

A total of 1,762 families or about 7,800 people were affected by the floods and evacuation and rescue operations were ongoing, Gatan said.

The Carmen-Rosales Road remains impassable due to four-feet of flood waters and so with the Rosario-Sison Bridge in La Union which collapsed, the RDCC chief said.

Pepeng made landfall thrice since entering the Philippine area of responsibility last October 3, the National Disaster Coordinating Council said in a separate statement.

In its latest weather bulletin, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said Pepeng was seen 90 kms Northwest of Baguio City packing maximum sustained winds of 55 kilometers per hour near the center and is forecast to move westward at 11 kph.

Signal no. 1 remains raised over Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, Abra, La Union, and western Pangasinan while storm warning signals elsewhere have been lowered, Pagasa said.

SHARED HARDSHIP AP

Filipino students from the Bagong Pag-asa elementary school raise their hands after being asked whose homes have been flooded during the typhoon as classes resume in some parts of still submerged Taytay township, Rizal province, Philippines on Monday Oct. 5, 2009. Typhoon Parma weakened into a tropical storm that lingered off the Philippine coast Monday, drenching northern provinces as well as Taiwan after killing several people and causing widespread flooding and landslides.

CHR charter amendments passed on second reading

By LIRA DALANGIN-FERNANDEZ
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—The Commission on Human Rights (CHR) will soon have the power to prosecute human rights violators under its amended charter.

Under House Bill 6822 (An Act Strengthening the Commission on Human Rights and for other purposes), passed on second reading in the House of Representatives, the CHR is being given prosecutorial powers in case of inaction by concerned agencies.

"Recent events revealed our country's worsening human rights situation—from arbitrary and unlawful arrests to enforced disappearances and from torture to extra judicial killings, from harassments of media outfits to outright killing of journalists. All these lead and point to the CHR as one institution that needs to be strengthened," said Quezon Representative Lorenzo "Erin" Tanada III, chairman of the committee on human rights.

The bill also removes the prescriptive period on the investigation of cases of human rights violations.

It also expands the power of the CHR to investigate, giving them unhampered and unrestricted visitorial rights over all detention facilities of the government including those under the Armed Forces of the Philippines, according to Tanada.

Under the measure, the CHR will be known as the National Human Rights Institution (NHRI).

"This is significant because international bodies, chief of them the United Nations, have given importance to the designation of a National Human Rights Institution in every country," Tanada added.

The CHR charter now embodies the concepts and guidelines of the "Paris Principles" among which are independence and pluralism, he said.

The "Paris Principles" are the guidelines and recommendations passed by the UN Commission on Human Rights in 1993 for National Human Rights Institutions all over the world.

TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR MONEY

Coping with disaster

Editor's Note: This is part of Take Charge of Your Money, a partnership between INQUIRER.net and Citibank to help readers handle their personal finances well.

Many Filipinos were badly affected by Typhoon Ondoy which hit Metro Manila last September 26. Not just homes, but entire residential villages were submerged in floodwater, forcing thousands to seek refuge elsewhere. The damage to personal property including cars now number hundreds of millions.

As the affected Filipinos go about rebuilding their homes and restoring their cars, where can they get help to cover all these unexpected expenses? To answer this question which no doubt is in the minds of all those affected, we offer the following guidance.

Many people were caught unaware of the intensity of the recent typhoon. Only when floodwater started rising fast did people leave their cars and homes. News reports have filled us in on the thousands of people affected, either with loss or damage to their property, or unfortunately, loss of lives.

Such an incident as this underscores the need for having non-life insurance coverage to protect one's property (whether house, car, or valuables including jewelry or fine art) in case of theft, fire, flood, earthquake, etcetera. By having insurance coverage, you will be able to claim an amount which corresponds to the value of the items lost. This will allow you to breathe more easily when disaster strikes and unplanned expenses escalate. If the non-life insurance coverage also includes coverage for "acts of God"—disasters that are not man-made, such as flood—you need not worry when the next strong super typhoon comes by.

In case you do not have non-life insurance coverage, allow us to share below some tips which will help you handle your situation. However, we strongly urge you to plan on getting non-life insurance coverage for your house and car and all other valuables once you have recovered from this present situation.

Where to get helpAt this time, you would like to get back on your feet and back to your normal lives as soon as possible. Although your funds are not enough, you can seek financial help from many institutions. Below are some of your options:

1. Social Security System (SSS) Calamity Loan: This loan is granted by the SSS to members who were victims of a natural disaster in a place declared as a calamity area. Currently, the National Capital Region (Metro Manila) is a calamity area. To avail of this loan, go to the nearest SSS office, get a form for calamity loan, and gather the requirements needed as listed therein (one of which is a barangay certificate). The calamity loan is P8,000, but members with an existing calamity loan can still avail of another one.

2. GSIS Calamity Loan: Members of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) may also avail of a calamity loan in the amount of P20,000. Go to a GSIS office to apply for this loan.

3. Pag-Ibig Calamity Loan: The Pag-Ibig Fund is also offering calamity loans to members who have paid at least 24 monthly contributions. Loanable amount may be up to 80 percent of a member's savings.

4. Salary loan from banks, credit cooperatives, and financial institutions: You may also avail of loans from your bank, or from a credit cooperative or a financial institution. Interest rates may be higher than what SSS, GSIS, and Pag-Ibig may offer, but you may be able to avail of higher loan amounts. Before signing on the dotted line, make sure you read and understand all the terms involved.

5. Loan from your insurance company: In case you have a life insurance policy, you may be able to borrow an amount against it. Ask your insurance agent if your premium payments are already enough for you to avail of a loan.

6. Loans from family and friends: Of course you may also be able to tap your family and friends for financial assistance and loan at this time. If you do take out a loan from them, be professional about it and put everything down in writing. Be clear about payment terms and be committed to paying on time so as not to betray trust and ruin the relationship.

Build up an emergency fundWhen you are more or less back on your feet, make it a priority to start saving for an emergency fund. This fund will be your lifesaver should another unexpected event happen. Aim to build up a fund that can cover for about six months' worth of expenses, and even more if you can. Grow this money even more by placing it in time deposits or in investments such as mutual fund or unit investment trust fund, but decide only after gauging the risk involved.

Things will get better for you and for all others who have been affected by the typhoon. We wish you the best.

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Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Stars play real-life heroes to 'Ondoy' victims

By BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR., MARINEL CRUZ
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—This is a reality show, of stardom at its noblest. Kapuso and Kapamilya celebrities have been playing true-life heroes these past two weeks to countless compatriots devastated and displaced by Tropical Storm "Ondoy."

Actor Dingdong Dantes realized the magnitude of the problem on Sept. 27, a day after the downpours that brought massive floods, during the GMA 7 telethon on the variety show "SOP."

"It was a wake-up call for me," Dingdong said. "I felt very sorry for the victims and for the whole country. We must try to figure out what went wrong."

Right after that show, he mobilized the youth leaders of his Yes Pinoy Foundation, which promotes scholarship programs. "But seeing the images of grief on TV," he said, "we decided to join the relief operations."

Volunteers showed up at his doorstep and donations started pouring in.

Apart from friends and relatives and fellow Kapuso stars Dennis Trillo, Gabby Eigenmann and Antonio Aquitania, members of the 3rd Technical Service

Dingdong Dantes

Battalion of the Armed Forces of the Philippines joined Dingdong in Manggahan, Pasig, on Monday, Sept. 28. The actor is a marine reserve officer.

On Oct. 1, Marian Rivera, his screen partner, helped him distribute goods in Cainta.

"Marian was very happy to help," said Dingdong. "She worked tirelessly ... she was an asset to the team."

It's reassuring, the actor said, that despite their difficulties, "Filipinos are able to remain cheerful. And it feels good that we're able to make them smile, even for a moment."

Dingdong ultimately set up the Tindig Pinoy Laban Kay Ondoy Relief Center. "The team is going back to Taytay and Cainta. We will continue our efforts long after the storms have left our shores," he said.

Suited and ready

ABS-CBN star Angel Locsin turned up at a relief center of the Philippine National Red Cross wearing a swimsuit under a loose-fitting shirt. The actress, a former member of the national swimming team, said she was prepared to join rescue missions.

"I came ready for deployment," Angel said. But she was just as willing to

Angel Locsin

help repack relief goods that were being dispatched that day.

The next day, the actress visited the Payatas dumpsite in Quezon City and donated goods to the residents. "The houses there don't have second levels," she pointed out. "The people lost everything."

Angel also reportedly donated P600,000 to Sagip Kapamilya, an ABS-CBN group tasked to address humanitarian crises caused by emergencies.

Energy biscuits

For one whole month, the United Nations World Food Program will give "energy biscuits" to 11,7000 children under 5 years old, announced KC Concepcion, UN-WFP national ambassador.

"The biscuits are formulated to satisfy the kids' nutritional needs," she explained, adding that the UN has sent 30 rubber boats and three helicopters for rescue operations and will donate generators to power up damaged hospitals.

KC has been very visible, coordinating food brigades and personally helping distribute the goods in hard-hit communities.

No stunt, man

Richard Gutierrez famously rescued "Patient X" co-star Cristine Reyes, who had been stuck on the roof of her house in Provident Villages, Marikina.

However, he was accused of staging the rescue as a publicity stunt for the movie, according to his mom-manager Annabelle Rama.

It was Reyes' turn to rush to Gutierrez's side: "He risked his life to save me. That was no joke and certainly not a gimmick."

Gutierrez recalled that it was "pitch dark" when he went off to search for Reyes. "It took me five hours to find her house. We had to go slowly and

Cristine Reyes

carefully. There were lots of obstacles, floating debris along the way."

He gladly shared the credit with friend Nani Pascoguin, an extreme sports enthusiast. "He owns the small motor boat we used."

Richard said the experience taught him, more than anything, to count his blessings. "Now I know why our parents remind us to always be thankful. In the blink of an eye, you could lose everything."

The actor later participated in clean-up activities initiated by the GMA News and Public Affairs staff in Tumana, Marikina. With Reyes and other Kapuso stars, Richard also distributed relief packs in Marikina's Nangka High School.

Many other Kapuso stars likewise trooped to various evacuation centers to support the network's relief drive.

Richard Gutierrez

Network initiative

Since Monday last week, Katrina Halili has been giving away clothes, pails and other necessities in Marikina and Taytay.

Halili's "Rosalinda" co-stars Carla Abellana and Geoff Eigenmann delivered goods to Red Cross Alabang.

Alfred Vargas conducted mass feeding and relief operations in Fairview, Quezon City.

Vargas, who got stranded at the Inquirer office in Makati after a Read-Along session with street children at the height of "Ondoy" on Sept. 26, said he has lined up more activities in other affected areas this month.

JC de Vera and Bubbles Paraiso volunteered at the Kapuso Foundation's repacking satellite at the GMA 7 studios.

On their own, "Starstruck" graduates Mark Herras, Rainier Castillo and Yasmien Kurdi mounted distribution campaigns.

Francine Prieto, whose mother is a cancer patient, nevertheless joined the Kapuso drive, along with Chynna Ortaleza, Iza Calzado and Kris Bernal in Rodriguez, Valenzuela, Malabon and Pasig.

Sampaguita group

Amalia Fuentes joined other actors from the Sampaguita, LVN and Premiere years in donating clothes and blankets to flood victims.

"The Balik Samahan group is organizing relief operations," Amalia related.

"Ondoy" and "Pepeng" were also "eye-openers" for her: "I've been living in New Manila for five decades. This subdivision has never been flooded this badly."

Waters from a nearby creek flowed into her home—damaging cars, couches and kitchen appliances.

"My garden was ruined. My swimming pool was filled with mud in 10 minutes. But I cannot complain because, from watching CNN, I know that other Filipinos suffered more," Amalia said.

"Hopefully, public officials will now enforce laws on housing and sanitation ... and ordinary citizens will take better care of the environment."

Young ones, too

Jake Cuenca led the distribution of relief packages in Biñan, Laguna. Singer Pops Fernandez, BB Gandanghari, Bing Loyzaga and several young artists from Star Magic visited affected residents in Muntinlupa.

Young actress Shaina Magdayao helped out in Payatas with fellow Kapamilya artists Piolo Pascual, Zanjoe Marudo and Maricar Reyes. Shaina also worked with Kris Aquino and Ruffa Gutierrez at a center in San Mateo, Rizal.

Shaina observed, "Iba talaga ang bayanihan ng mga Pinoy. No one forced us to join relief operations. We really just want to help and cheer up those who have been affected."

Mellisa Ricks spent a day helping out at a Sagip Kapamilya center in Malabon. She was with Matt Evans, Vhong Navarro, EJ Falcon and veteran actress Nova Villa. "Walang maliit na tulong," said Melissa. "We saw how much the mere gesture of giving out food and clothes meant to those people in need. They were very happy."

Amalia Fuentes

Singer Ogie Alcasid was inspired to write a song, as tribute to the resilience and generosity of Filipinos.

"It's titled, 'Kaya Natin 'To (We Can Survive This).' I already made the demo," he said.

He envisions it as a "We Are the World"-type of fundraiser. "I hope to convince other artists to record the song with me, and give all proceeds to the flood victims."

All-star benefit concert

Also in the works, Ogie said, is an all-star benefit concert at the Araneta Coliseum on Nov. 14, similarly dubbed "Kaya Natin 'To."

"I hope it will become a unity concert, with Kapuso and Kapamilya artists participating."

Ogie is amazed at how everyone is responding to the crisis. "It just goes to show," he said, "that in difficult times like this, Filipinos are all ready to help."

Ogie's girlfriend, singer Regine Velasquez, had gone straight to a wholesale supermarket the day after "Ondoy," to buy groceries for distribution as relief packs.

"On her own, she went around different sites in Balara, Quezon City, near her house," Ogie said.

There are many realizations for Filipinos after the storm, he stressed, the most important of which is disaster preparedness. "We can no longer take things for granted."

Maharlika – Opinyon

EDITORIAL

The human factor

It will not do to merely label the "Ondoy" floods an act of God, and leave it at that. We all need to understand exactly what happened—not only to assign blame (although that is important) or to remake policy (although that is indispensable) but also and mainly to prevent a similar catastrophe in the future.

Already we are beginning to hear commentary that the great flood was an epochal event—that is, that it can happen only once in an epoch. This is perverse thinking, and dangerous. We cannot compare the flooding of Metro Manila and surrounding provinces to a cataclysmic earthquake or a Pinatubo-type volcanic eruption. Over these we have no control whatsoever; an extraordinary flood, however, is a volatile mix of natural violence and human folly.

In other words, there is the human factor to consider.

It has already become clear that allowing commercial or residential developments in areas below flood lines ramped up the scale of Ondoy's devastation. It was already obvious, from previous typhoons, that clogged waterways made flooding in some areas inevitable. As report after chilling report has also shown, a general lack of preparation among government agencies contributed to the catastrophe.

Given similar conditions, who is to say that, with even half of the rainfall that inundated Metro Manila and surrounding provinces, another Ondoy-like calamity would not occur?

Thursday's front-page analysis by Raul Lejano of the University of California at Irvine and Chinie Canivel of the National University of Singapore reminds us of a truism: Hazards are natural, but disasters are human. It's the human factor again. The biggest what-if question confronting the country, after Ondoy (international codename: Ketsana), is not whether the same record rainfall will be experienced again; it is whether the human factor that magnified Ondoy's violence can be minimized.

Just one example out of many: there was no early warning system. "They [the residents of Marikina] had nine hours to evacuate, but there was no mechanism in place in which they could be warned of the coming waters," said geologist C.P. David of the University of the Philippines, at a UP forum.

He used PAGASA data to show that the heaviest rainfall happened between 3 a.m. and 6 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 26—hours before the various reports of flooding swamped both media and social networks. "We cannot stop the flooding because the volume of rain was really too much, but we could have done something if we had known the flooding in Wawa early on," David pointed out.

But there was no system, no equipment, no protocol, in place.

The Lejano-Canivel analysis makes a proposal, which we endorse: "What is needed is a public process of truth-seeking."

The process can begin with the misnamed PAGASA, which seems under-prepared, under-resourced, under-challenged. Consider this: "Our old radar has limitations. It has a blind spot to the south and that includes Metropolitan Manila," said Fredolina Baldonado of PAGASA.

But Nathaniel Cruz, PAGASA operations chief, insists that the national weather bureau is not under-funded. "It is incorrect to say PAGASA has been left begging for funds," he said, noting that over the past five years it had received P4 billion for equipment upgrades.

So they got P4 billion—and we still don't have the Doppler radars we need?

That's the human factor right there.

'Akyat bahay' in 1796

Looking Back
By AMBETH OCAMPO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

When my students go to the library to dig up the newspaper on the day they were born, they get a first-hand experience of historical research. Almost everyone is enthusiastic to know what the Philippines was like when they came into the world, but many come away disappointed that their birthday was not heralded by angels with blaring trumpets or marked by cataclysmic disasters.

For many students confronted with their past, the 20-year-old newspaper they consult reads very much like the newspapers of today. The challenges we face remain unchanged. Many faces in the political landscape have aged, but with the aid of cosmetic surgery or Viagra they remain. The newspaper exercise underscores the sad fact that we have not changed very much in two decades. Worse, after a semester of Philippine history, students realize that we have not changed much in the past century or even the past millennium.

While history classes begin with the great philosophical question, "Why history?" my students learn about the day they were born and ask the more relevant question: "Do we liberate ourselves from history? Can we liberate ourselves from the past?"

These questions came to mind when I went through the Philippine references in the journal of Nathaniel Bowditch who traveled all the way from Salem, Massachusetts, to Manila in 1796 to trade. I don't normally read works on economic history because I get bored by the stale data on 19th-century shipping schedules or the prices of sugar, Manila hemp, salt, live hogs and dried tanned carabao hide. Most historians are familiar with the 19th-century American trading houses in the Philippines, like Peale, Hubbell & Co. or Russell & Sturgis, but not much else. Not much earlier. The Manila references in the Bowditch journal were transcribed from the original manuscript in the Boston Public Library and annotated by Thomas and Mary McHale, and their slim but important work was published by the Yale University Southeast Asia Studies program in 1962.

Kept indoors in the wake of "Ondoy," I finally read the Bowditch journal to get reacquainted with old Manila. There were the usual descriptions of the city and its people and details on the Chinese and trade. Since Bowditch arrived on a named "Astrea," there were references to navigation of Manila Bay, crocodiles in the Pasig River, as well as the inconveniences of port, customs and police regulations. He experienced mild earthquakes while in Manila and was surprised that these came silently, without the rumbling of the earth he knew from quakes in the US.

Their cargo of hats were sold out. They also brought wine, brandy and rum. When they were informed that alcohol distilled from cane was prohibited in the Philippines, they declared their rum as brandy.

As I was about to close the pamphlet halfway unread, I came across an account of akyat bahay:

"On Friday evening December 2, [1796] was stolen from our house a bag containing 1,000 dollars. It was a daring robbery but the authors of it have been detected and chief of the money recovered. The circumstances were these: There were five bags of money lying on top of the other boxes containing money. A black man who brought here a muster of some indigo for them conceived the process of breaking into the house. He was accompanied by four or five black people who lived a little way back into the country. By means of a bamboo they climbed into a window of the chamber where the money was deposited and which was not 10 feet from the bed where Capt. Prince and myself were asleep. In the adjoining chamber, parted from ours by a thin partition, there was Mr. Collins and the boat's crew, in all seven persons, asleep. They took but one bag of the money when it was probable that something startled them and they went off undiscovered."

Next morning the boat crew went off without noticing anything unusual. The captain saw the open window and asked Bowditch if he had left it open during the night. Bowditch replied in the negative and closed the window. Then they discovered one bag of money missing and despaired that they would never know what happened. But by 8 a.m. the police had the culprits. The thieves were aboard a banca making their escape when they were stopped and questioned by river police. Instead of making excuses, fear got the better of them and they ran off and money bags fell into the river, but everyone was later caught.

Only $868 of the $1,000 was recovered from the river and the thieves. Bowditch did not speculate where the remainder went. Perhaps the police pocketed a few souvenirs for their effort?

Bowditch recorded two other thefts. First, a cask of wine was stolen in broad daylight during siesta. Second, cargadores loading numbered boxes on the ship set aside two and altered the shipping marks on the rest to confuse the person receiving and logging inventory. Everything went undetected, but the cargadores were eventually caught when they attempted to bring the stolen boxes ashore.

Customs and river police were everywhere and quite vigilant, too. While there is not much on crime and punishment in old travel accounts, these are still worth reading today not just to remind us how little we have changed, but to make us more careful of our possessions.

'Bad' and 'good' words

Pinoy Kasi
By MICHAEL TAN
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

I recently received a questionnaire from Inter Press Service, a regional news service trying to balance news reporting from the perspective of developing countries. The questionnaire had been sent out to journalists and editors and included a list of words on which we were asked to comment. If we found something wrong with the words, we were supposed to recommend alternatives.

As you might have guessed, several were "sexist" words: "chairman," "businessman" and "salesman," for which the preferred terms are now "chair," "businessperson" and "salesperson." The alternative terms are called "gender inclusive" because by becoming gender-neutral, they allow, at least conceptually, the possibilities of the term being used for all genders.

Beyond gender sensitivity, there are many other words being scrutinized now and "reconfigured" because they are considered politically incorrect, i.e., they offend the sensibilities of certain groups, or reinforce certain prejudices.

The acceptable term may even change across time, the changes initiated by the people affected. Thus "Negro" (and its very offensive slang equivalent "Nigger") gave way to "Black" and then to "African-American." "Black" was politically correct for many years but then Blacks themselves began to object against the continuing focus on color. African-American shifted the emphasis to culture, and also recognized belonging to American society.

Underlying the attempts to correct the terms is the idea that language shapes our thinking. For example, if you keep saying "businessman," you reinforce the image of business being more suited for men than for women.

I am calling them "bad" words because they often tempt people to censorship. We do that all the time with kids, for example, when they use direct terms for the genitalia and we say, "Shhhh . . . don't say that. Bad word."

But "bad" is relative. Words which we ban with children are used all the time by adults. Women will refrain from using curse words when they are in mixed company, but will scream them out when the men aren't around (or if there are men considered to be of lower status). "Negro" is still used all the time in Spanish-speaking societies and by Filipinos, who pronounce it the Spanish way without anyone protesting.

Johanna Son of IPS told me that in their survey, they found mixed feelings among media people (notice my gender inclusiveness?) about political correctness or PC coming in. I will admit I am also ambivalent because sometimes this PC can go overboard, or become too contrived. There are so many PC terms that have been proposed but which have, mercifully, died out. There were women, for example, who protested that there was still "men" in "women" and wanted something like "womyn." Others, tongue-in-cheek, I suspect, railed against "history" because it is men's stories and proposed "herstory."

"Herstory" didn't catch on although I mention the term in my research methodologies classes to emphasize that a good researcher should be sure to get the views of both women and men.

Johanna gave an amusing example of how PC can become contrived. Since "newsman" is "sexist," there was once a proposal, quickly aborted, to use "newshound" for male journalists and "newshen" for females. The terms are awkward at best, almost absurd at its worst when you imagine male reporters "sniffing" around (for hens?).

The jury's still out when it comes to a very recent proposal in the United States to phase out the use of the word "retarded" as an insult. This is in deference to people who are mentally challenged (another PC term) or who are "slow" (not acceptable, incidentally, for some people). The concerns here, as with many of the other PC terms, grow out of liberalism, which emphasizes the dignity and worth of all individuals, regardless of gender, ethnicity, "race" and lately, cognitive abilities.

My initial reaction to the protests against "retarded" was that it was again going overboard, until I read about someone in this "anti-R word" movement who himself had a special child and who had realized once that he had, in a moment of anger, shouted out "Retarded!" against the object of his rage.

I think all these concerns about "bad" words do allow people to be more introspective, to look at how language carries our hurtful biases. The IPS list had "maid" as well, and we know how many Filipinos don't like the term because it has become almost synonymous with "Filipino" in several countries. Yet, Johanna noted that one media person proposed "servant" as an alternative, oblivious to why "maid" was so objectionable.

Think, too, of the terms we use in the Philippines. "Atsay" is the most objectionable but continues to be widely used. "Katulong" (helper) is more benign, but really still comes out sounding like "maid." The PC term right now is "kasambahay," someone who is with you in the house.

After talking with Johanna about their experiences with media people, I thought of how we might have to strengthen our education of health professionals as well on some of the terminologies. Since I work in reproductive health, for years we've been reminding doctors and nurses to be on the alert about local sexist terms. The most notorious is "gamit" (to use), with many health professionals still asking women when their husbands last "used" them, or how often their husbands "use" them. (Obstetricians/gynecologists have to do this sometimes as part of their history-taking . . . oops, herstory-taking.)

Another sexist term is "sakit ng babae" (or "sakit sa babae")—women's diseases—used to refer to sexually-transmitted infections. The focus on women reinforces the idea that these illnesses come from women. In reality, these infections are more often passed from men to women.

The IPS list has the term "broken homes," which I feel should be banished because it is so negative and reinforces the idea that children can be properly raised only if you have a father and a mother. Think of the hundreds of thousands of Filipino homes that are "broken" for different reasons, including one parent having to work overseas. The preferred term, for now, is "single parent household," although the reality, in the Philippine context, is that quite often the children end up being raised by many people—from grandparents to elder siblings.

Finally, I want to mention that even the terms "patients" and "victims" have been questioned, because they reinforce passivity. So, instead of "cancer patients" you will hear "people with cancer." Instead of "AIDS victims" you will hear "people living with HIV/AIDS."

Think, too, of the difference made between using "rape victim" and "rape survivor."

Maharlika–Samu't Sari

HAPPY BIRTHDAY CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday Jadine Victoria. Thinking of you with love on your birthday and wishing you everything that brings you happiness today and always. May your day be filled with joyous and loving memories! We love you! Greetings from family and friends.

BELATED BIRTHDAY CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy birthday to Mommy Rio Laniyo. Greetings from your media friends.

PROMOTION CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congratulations to Sgt. Leslie Ann P. Sablan on your much-deserved promotion. We're so proud of you and keep up the good work. Take care, be safe, Godspeed, and hurry home. We love you from Andy John, Riley James, Momo, Mom, Dad, Jo, Vic, Honey Girl, and Little Jo.

CONGRATS ON PROMOTIONS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congratulations to Sgt. Patrick Rodeo and Sgt. Leslie Ann P. Sablan on your well-deserved promotion. Good work guys keep it up were so proud of you both. The two are from the 368th MP Company out of Saipan. We love you guys from your family, friends, and colleagues.

DISASTER DONATION CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Island Apparel donated clothing and other items to victims of the tsunami in American Samoa and Typhoon Ondoy in the Philippines. The donation to American Samoa was worth $10,000 and was made up of new clothes, caps, and towels. It was turned over to Rep. Rosemond B. Santos and her husband Gary Sword. The donation to the Philippines, meanwhile, was received by Rep. Diego Benavente and Vice Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero. It was worth $20,000 and included new clothes, towels, and sweatshirts.

Young Style

Virtual theme park for kids explores life's wonders

By MIKE MUSGROVE
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—"I think this is educational," observes my 8-year-old stepson, about half an hour after logging on to Wonder Rotunda, a Web site aimed at kids that was recently launched by a suburban dad.

I wonder briefly if the jig is up, but he continues to explore the virtual theme park, intrigued by the prospect of winning and spending the game's "wonder dollars" to buy virtual food and loot with which to decorate his virtual treehouse.

I'm not sure whether he'll be playing next week—who ever knows these things?—but for now he's intrigued enough to sit still through discussions about how the human digestive system works and which presidents appear on U.S. currency.

Wonder Rotunda, the creation of former international trade lawyer Eric Garfinkel, opened for business online in August. Parents pay $45 for a year-long membership, or "park pass" at the site, a two-dimensional virtual world based in part on some of Garfinkel's earliest memories as a kid growing up in Queens and attending the 1964 World's Fair.

Thanks to that subscription fee, the site doesn't have the advertising that blankets most kid-oriented sites, and there's a pleasant, old-school look to the thing. Garfinkel paid an animation team and a programmer for some of the work that went into the site, but Wonder Rotunda, two years in the making, is largely a one-man show.

"I was the chef, cook and bottle washer for this project," he said.

This isn't Garfinkel's first foray into the kid marketplace. In 1992, he made a major professional switch, from a career in law and public service, to start a toy company. Back to Basics Toys launched with the idea of bringing back classic items such as Raggedy Ann dolls, tin robots and Lincoln Logs—stuff from an era before movie tie-ins and Happy Meal promotions were standard fare. Amazon.com bought the company for an undisclosed sum in 1999.

Garfinkel's new site is a tiny player in what has recently become a fiercely competitive market as kids spend more time online. In 2009, an estimated 9.7 million children and teens in the United States will regularly visit virtual worlds, according to research firm eMarketer. By 2013, the firm projects that audience will grow to more than 15 million.

The breakout successes in this market can be mind-boggling. Take Club Penguin, for example. The kid-oriented social-networking site was started by a few dads in Canada who wanted to build a safe, ad-free interactive world for their kids. A year after it launched, the service had 2 million users—and a year after that, in 2007, Disney came along and bought the site for $350 million.

Naturally, every kid-friendly company from Mattel to Lego has sought to stake a claim online. Wonder Rotunda isn't the only offering with an educational component, either. Last year, Knowledge Adventure's chief executive described to me one educational title it had in the works as "World of Warcraft for 3- to 10-year-olds."

Garfinkel said he didn't do a lot of market research as he was developing Wonder Rotunda; he mostly came to this space as a concerned father. "My daughter was spending time on Webkinz and Club Penguin," he said. "They weren't as constructive as I thought they could be."

Where Club Penguin is social networking for the kid set, Wonder Rotunda is more like an educational CD-ROM that happens to be parked on the Web. There aren't any chat rooms, and kids don't "friend" other players.

Wonder Rotunda's few write-ups have been favorable: Common Sense Media, which reviews kid-oriented products from a parent's perspective, gave the site its top ranking of five stars.

Debra Aho Williamson, a senior analyst at eMarketer who follows kids and online trends, took an instant liking to the site last week. "Something like this really makes sense," said Williamson, whose children are 6 and 8.

Williamson said it makes sense to have an offering for younger kids that doesn't push social-networking features. "I think that's really smart, in terms of appealing to parents of younger children," she said, though kids past 10 will probably clamor for a more socially engaging experience.

Rainforest Zip-Line
Learn about the Costa Rican rain forest and its various creatures.
Symphony Orchestra
Join the conductor on stage for a performance of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. Learn about instruments and famous composers.
Digestive System
Take a submarine trip through the human body and learn how the body breaks down food and how organs work.
You're in Business
Set up a smoothie stand and learn about income, expenses and profits.
WONDER ROTUNDA
Park Tips

THE WASHINGTPON POST

My daughter was spending time on Webkinz and Club Penguin," says Eric Garfinkel, the creator of the online site Wonder Rotunda. "They weren't as constructive as I thought they could be." Where other sites serve as social networking, Wonder Rotunda is more like an educational CD-ROM that happens to be parked on the Web.

The Stanley Cup is still the Capitals' goal

By FRED BOWEN
Special to The Washington Post

Bowen is the author of sports novels for kids. His books "Touchdown Trouble" and "Soccer Team Upset" have just been published.

The National Hockey League season has started, and the Washington Capitals are hoping that it will be something special.

Last season, the Caps had a record of 50 wins, 24 losses and 8 ties. That was good enough to win the Southeast Division and finish second in the Eastern Conference. The Caps also beat the New York Rangers in the first round of the playoffs before falling to the Pittsburgh Penguins, who went on to win hockey's championship, the Stanley Cup.

Now the Caps are aiming for a better record, a longer playoff run and maybe even that famous cup. None of this will be easy. Team owner Ted Leonsis told me last year that he thought the hardest thing to do in the business world was to win a championship in a major sport. In the NHL, you have 30 teams filled with talented athletes all working for the same goal.

Pro Ice Hockey Fact

Alex Ovechkin is only the third player in NHL history to get three points or more in each of his team's first three games.

(c) 2009, The Washington Post

But the Caps have a chance if a few things go right.

Alex Ovechkin: Ovechkin has been spectacular, scoring 52, 46, 65 and 56 goals in his first four seasons and winning two most valuable player trophies. Ovechkin can't rest on his laurels or drop off in his level of play. Lots of NHL teams have good players. Championship teams usually have a great player who is the team leader and gets everyone to play better. Ovechkin can be that player.

Other stars: Of course, the Caps can't be just a one-man team. That doesn't work in hockey, where players take short shifts on the ice. So it would help if Washington's other young stars—forwards Nicklas Backstrom and Alexander Semin and defenseman Mike Green—as well as newcomers Mike Knuble and Brendan Morrison help Ovechkin.

Goalies: The Caps have veteran Jose Theodore and 21-year-old Semyon Varlamov. It will be tricky for Coach Bruce Boudreau to give them enough playing time to keep them sharp but not too much to wear them out over the long 82-game season. Theodore is his No. 1 goalie, but look for Varlamov, who was the surprise star of the playoffs, to see more action as the season goes on.

Attitude: The worst thing that could happen is for the Caps to begin to believe they are better than they are. The Capitals have to remember they have not won a Stanley Cup or even gone very far in the playoffs. They are a talented young team that has to work hard every minute of every game to win.

If the Caps can do that, the 2009-10 season may be something very special indeed.

Why the US fights in Afghanistan

By MARGARET WEBB PRESSLER and RAJIV CHANDRASEKARAN
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

For a few years, you've heard a lot about the war in Iraq. But recently, there has been a lot of news about fighting in Afghanistan. U.S. troops increasingly are being wounded or killed there, including eight in one attack this weekend. In the coming weeks, President Barack Obama is likely to decide whether he should send more American service members into the large, mountainous and politically complicated nation.

KidsPost's Margaret Webb Pressler and foreign correspondent Rajiv Chandrasekaran, who has spent time in Afghanistan, have answered some questions about the country and what is happening there.

Why are U.S. troops in Afghanistan?

The terrorists who planned the attacks in the United States on Sept. 11, 2001, had lived or trained in Afghanistan. At the time, Afghanistan had a government called the Taliban that greatly limited the freedom of the Afghan people and supported terrorists. After the attacks in New York, Pennsylvania and on the Pentagon, the U.S. military attacked Afghanistan and the terrorist camps, leading to the fall of the Taliban. Our military has been there ever since to help keep the country secure as a new government tries to rebuild the country. There are about 57,000 U.S. troops there now.

Is there a war in Afghanistan?

There is no declared war in Afghanistan, as there is in Iraq. But recently, the situation in Afghanistan has gotten significantly worse for the government, the military and ordinary people. That has endangered U.S. troops and concerned U.S. officials. There was recently an election for president in Afghanistan, but there is evidence that there was cheating in the voting. The outcome of the election still isn't clear.

Why has the situation gotten worse there?

Afghanistan is a big country, with different religious, political and tribal groups that want to be in power. There were not enough U.S. troops in the country to restore order after the Taliban was kicked out of power. So the Taliban has been able to reorganize. Now its members are starting to carry out violent attacks against other groups in the country and against the U.S. military. In August, 51 U.S. troops were killed in Afghanistan — the deadliest month ever for the U.S. military there.

Why does it matter to us what happens in Afghanistan?

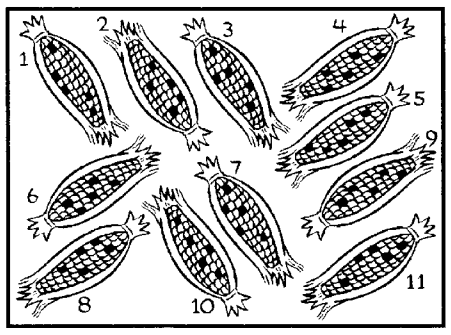
U.S. officials are worried that Afghanistan could again become a place where terrorists can live and train. If that were to happen, it could allow some of these dangerous groups to try to carry out terrorist attacks around the world.

What happens now?

The U.S. government wants to help Afghanistan create a stable, secure government that can keep these dangerous groups from harming anyone else, in Afghanistan, the United States or elsewhere. The president sent 17,000 more troops to Afghanistan earlier this year, and recently the top U.S. military commander in Afghanistan said even more troops will be needed in the next year if the United States is going to succeed in defeating the Taliban.

What about Iraq?

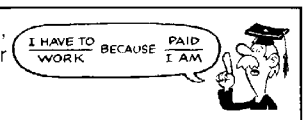
There is still a war in Iraq, but the situation has improved slowly, after several years of fighting among groups within the country, some of which have been supported by the U.S. military. Now the Iraqi government, with the backing of the United States, is taking steps to rebuild its own government and military so the country can be secure and independent without the help of U.S. troops.



IT'S HARVEST TIME! Two of the above ears of decorative corn are exactly alike. Can you "pop" up with the answer in 30 seconds?

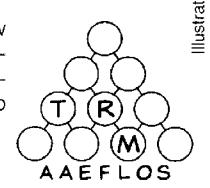
Answer: Ears 2 and 8.

A WISE OBSERVATION! All right, students, you have two minutes to solve Professor Flunkum's rebus complaint.



Answer: "I have to overwork because I am underpaid."

CHAIN REACTION! Take the seven letters printed below the diagram and place them in the circles so that eight four-letter words can be read, top to bottom, along the connecting lines. All the words will begin with the letter in the top circle.

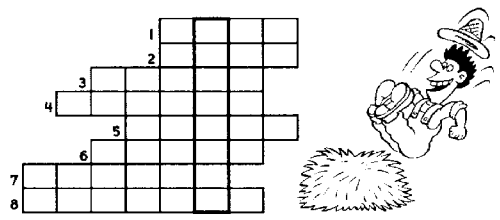


Answers: Top to bottom, left to right: Fats, fate, fare, farm, fore, form, foam, foal.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

FALL IN THE COUNTRY!



It's time for you to do your chores. In our grid there is room for eight words pertaining to this time of year. The following hints should help you celebrate the season.

1. Often seen with just one horse.
2. This is enjoyed by man or beast.
3. This is what apples turn into.
4. Large, colorful squash-like fruits.
5. You see your breath when he arrives.
6. Field robbers.
7. Type of leaves.
8. What the time on the farm is.

There is a dark frame around one of the columns in the grid. If you correctly solve the puzzles, the letters in the frame, top to bottom, will spell out how farmers celebrate when work is done.

Answers: 1. Shay. 2. Corn. 3. Cider. 4. Gourds. 5. (Jack) Frost. 6. Crows. 7. Autumn. 8. Harvest. The dark framed column spells "Hoedowns."

Illustrated by David Coulson

Cat suddenly stops using litter box

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: My 6-year-old cat, "Trixie," has suddenly started peeing in front of the front door, on the plastic runner, instead of using her litter box. Why would she start doing this? She is an indoor cat who has been fixed.—Perplexed in Virginia

DEAR PERPLEXED: While it may or may not provide a quick answer, take Trixie to the veterinarian and have her checked out. Behavioral changes can sometimes signal an illness, so it's important to eliminate that possibility before trying other steps.

If Trixie checks out OK, start monitoring her environment, and try to recall if anything has changed in your home, from furniture being moved around to a new roommate or pet. Cats can have trouble adjusting to what seem like small changes to you.

Note what's going on outside as well. Is there an outdoor cat wandering the area regularly? Is wildlife visiting your property? Trixie may be reacting to another animal snuffling at the door.

Meantime, whether or not you find the possible source of her behavioral change, replace the plastic runner with a new one and spray a cat repellent (available at the pet store) underneath, on and around it. You might want to set the old plastic runner down in front of the litter box to see if Trixie continues to urinate on it—if she does, move the runner over the box for a few days and then remove it completely from the house.

If Trixie continues to urinate in front of the door, clean up after her as soon as possible to prevent the urine from leaking into the carpet underneath. Try to catch her in the act and hiss or shake a can of pennies at her (don't do this after the act), then carry her over to the litter box. Repeat as necessary—this could take several days or weeks—but remain patient and encouraging. And of course, clean the litter box daily and make sure it's always accessible.

■ ■ ■

Send your tips, questions and comments to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or e-mail them to pawscorner@hotmail.com.

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ It was Romantic poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge who made the following sage observation: "The man's desire is for the woman, but the woman's desire is rarely other than for the desire of the man."

■ The lens of your eye will continue to grow throughout your lifetime.

■ You might be surprised to learn that famed British author Aldous Huxley, best-known for his dystopian novel "Brave New World," was a consultant on Disney's 1951 animated film version of "Alice in Wonderland."

■ Andrew Johnson, the 17th president of the United States, didn't learn to read until he was 17 years old.

■ For reasons that are unclear in the present day, lawmakers in North Carolina once saw fit to forbid racing a rabbit down a public street.

■ In 1850, the northern portion of the state of California declared itself to be an independent country to be known as the Great Republic of Rough and Ready.

■ Before he became a famous actor and director in his own right, Clint Eastwood was fired from bit parts in several films.

■ Everyone knows that ballerinas endure rigorous training that can wreak havoc on their feet, but you may not have known that their shoes endure their own hardships. It's not uncommon for dancers to break in their toe shoes by crushing them in doors, steaming them over a kettle, slamming them against a concrete floor or beating them with a hammer.

■ Those who study such things claim that eventually the oceans will dry up—in about a billion years or so.

■ During the Middle Ages, French toast was a delicacy enjoyed only by the very wealthy.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "There's no secret about success. Did you ever know a successful man who didn't tell you about it?"—Kin Hubbard

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MAGIC MAZE ● — UNDER

F G D Z W T Q N K H D A X U R
P M J G D A X V S E L K C U B
Q N K I S F D A X N V N T Q O
M J H F N C A Y E O W U U R P
N L T J O H D V L F D C M W B
Z T N E W X I N L V T K O R Q
O M K I E R I F A T I L R H F
D B Z Y D F W D B R P E F V T
R Q O N L K X I O O E D T H F
D C A Z X W V I P W B V U U S
R Q O N M K J I S G N I O G H

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

All	Going	Out from	Six feet
Bob	Knuckled	Over and	Snowed
Buckle	Lit a fire	Plow	Went
Driven	One	Pop	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	÷		+		10
x		x		+	
	x		−		7
−		−		÷	
	+		+		17
10		13		3	

2 3 4 5 5 6 7 8 9

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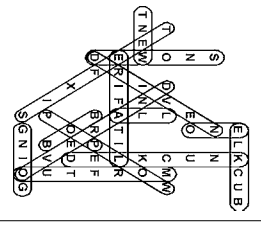
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

9	÷	3	+	7	10
x	+	x	−	5	8
x	−	6	x	2	2
7	+	5	−	4	17
10	÷	3	+	1	10

Make spider rolls for creepy treat

Combine a child's love of playing with dough and a fascination with spiders, and you'll have both a "hit" activity and a healthy treat when Halloween partygoers come to your house. Pre-party prep is a snap with prepared bread-roll dough. Simply clear the kitchen counters and let the kids work out their wiggles as they shape dough into balls and snakes to create their own creepy spiders. And they'll love "painting" them with an egg wash before you pop them in the oven.

Here are the simple ingredients you'll need:

■ Prepared frozen white dinner rolls such as Rhodes brand (available in the frozen-food section of grocery stores)

■ 1 egg beaten with 1 tablespoon of water for several spiders

■ Poppy seeds or sesame seeds

Here's the fun:

1. Each large spider requires two dinner rolls. Thaw the number of rolls you plan to use.

2. Slice 1/3 off of one roll and let your child form a ball with his hands. Form a second, larger ball with the remaining 2/3. Set aside. Slice the second roll into 4 equal parts. Roll each part into a 5-inch-long snake. To form spider legs, place two of the "snakes," one inside the other, in a U-shape on a cookie sheet coated with nonstick cooking spray. Allow space between the spider legs to distinguish one from the other.

3. With the remaining two snakes, form another U-shape going in the opposite direction, joining them together with the first two snakes at the curve. Place the 2 balls next to each other on top of the curve for the head and body.

4. Let rise about 15 minutes. Preheat oven to 350 F while dough rises.

5. Brush some egg mixture on top of the spider. Sprinkle with seeds. Bake for about 20 minutes or until light brown. Remove and set on cooling rack.

For extra fun when serving, squeeze jam or honey from a plastic bottle into a web design directly on a plain plate. Or, squeeze mustard and enjoy the spider roll with a hot dog or bratwurst.

"The grandkids are coming!" tip: Keep frozen dinner-roll dough on hand year-round and let your grandkids shape and bake creatures when they come to visit. Get inspired by a picture book or by an animal you observe on a trip to the zoo.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit www.donnasday.com to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.

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Life & Style

German writer Herta Mueller reacts, during a news conference in Berlin, Germany, Thursday Oct. 8, 2009.

AP

Nobel lit prize goes to little-known European

By HILLEL ITALIE
AP NATIONAL WRITER

The judges, apparently, could not help themselves.

Just two days after a Nobel Prize official worried the literature committee was too "Eurocentric," the winner for 2009 was Herta Mueller, a Romanian-born writer once censored in her native country.

It's no conspiracy, said permanent secretary Peter Englund. It's more geography.

"If you are European (it is) easier to relate to European literature," Englund told The Associated Press after the prize was announced Thursday. "It's the result of psychological bias that we really try to be aware of. It's not the result of any program."

Mueller, whose Nobel was seen as a nod to the 20th anniversary of communism's collapse, was persecuted in her native Romania for her critical depiction of life behind the Iron Curtain.

She was cited by the committee for "the concentration of poetry and the frankness of prose" in such novels as "The Land of Green Plums," which describe "the landscape of the dispossessed." Beyond the judges' praise, she will receive $1.4 million in prize money.

Mueller, 56, had to smuggle her early work to Germany to get it published and moved there in 1987. Her latest novel, "Atemschaukel," or "Swinging Breath," is up for this year's German Book Prize, to be announced Monday.

Like last year's Nobel laureate, Jean-Marie Gustave le Clezio of France, little of Mueller's work is available in English translation, although various publishers say they plan reissues.

Writers from all over the world have won Nobels in the prize's 108-year history, but European-based authors, whether natives or emigrants, have had a virtual monopoly in recent years—a trend the committee has defended, apologized for and perpetuated.

In 2008, then-permanent secretary Horace Engdahl declared bluntly that Europeans tended to win because they deserved to win, especially compared to Americans, whom Engdahl dismissed as "too sensitive to trends in their own mass culture."

Englund, in an AP interview this week, hinted strongly that the committee was looking elsewhere. Without naming names, he said some American authors indeed were worthy of the prize. He acknowledged that members of the Swedish Academy, who choose the winner and are themselves European, tend to "relate more easily to literature written in Europe and in the European tradition."

"I think that is a problem," Englund said Tuesday.

Apparently not so big a problem.

"Every prize inevitably faces these kinds of issues. You could say the same about the Pulitzers or National Book Awards, that certain types of books seem more likely to be under consideration," said Mike Levine, an acquisitions editor for Northwestern University Press, which has published some of Mueller's work in English translation.

Levine said such recent choices as Mueller, Doris Lessing and Harold Pinter show the academy is interested not just in European writers, but in European writers whose books address political issues.

Still, "writers in other parts of the world are doing that, so it should be easy, I would think, to find those writers," he said.

No American has won since Toni Morrison, in 1993. Other countries, and continents, have waited longer. Canada is home to at least three of the world's most respected authors—Margaret Atwood, Alice Munro and Michael Ondaatje. But the last Canadian to receive the Nobel was Saul Bellow, who won in 1976 and left for the U.S. as a boy. No South American writer has won since Gabriel Garcia Marquez in 1982.

"I don't think the awards are too 'Eurocentric,' but I do think we'd benefit from seeing more writers from Asia, South America, Africa on the list," said Chad Post, director of Open Letter Books, a nonprofit publishing house at the University of Rochester that specializes in literature in translation.

"In any given year, one can come up with a list of 10-20 writers from all over the world that are deserving of the award, and then it tends to go to someone that no one is even talking about."

Mueller's selection does conform to a goal stated by Engdahl last year but enforced sporadically: "The purpose of the prize is to make them famous," he said, "not to tap them when they are famous."

In the United States, even such leading literary critics as James Wood and Harold Bloom say they have never read Mueller. One U.S-based admirer is M.A. Orthofer, managing editor of the Complete Review, an online journal which reviews many works in translation.

"I don't know that she stood out from a lot of other anti-totalitarian/East European writing of the 1980s ... but there's an attention to language that is appealing in all her work," said Orthofer, who read her work in German.

"I think the fact that she lived in Romania, as part of the German-speaking minority community, made her particularly attentive to words and meanings—and she seems to have slightly different feel for German than her German-born and -raised contemporaries, to good effect in much of her writing."

Nobels have long alternated between the well known (Pinter, Lessing, Orhan Pamuk) and the not so known (Mueller, le Clezio, Elfriede Jelinek). If fame can be measured by sales, then the Nobel mission has not always been achieved. Japan's Kenzaburo Oe, the 1994 winner, became a far more popular writer. Jelinek and le Clezio are just slightly better known now than when they won.

"Some of that depends on the accessibility of the author, let's not kid ourselves," said Morgan Entrekin, head of Grove/Atlantic, Inc., which has published Oe and Jelinek. "But a Nobel can really make a writer part of the canon, in a serious way. And it makes the writer a lot more likely to be taught at universities."

Though the Nobel committee said the award was not timed to coincide with the 20th anniversary of the fall of communism, that's how it was perceived by many.

"Today, 20 years after the fall of the wall, it is a wonderful message that such high-quality literature about this life experience is being honored with the literature Nobel Prize," German Chancellor Angela Merkel told reporters. "We are naturally delighted that Herta Mueller has found a home in Germany."

Very few foreign-language books make it into English and even fewer reach a wide audience.

Mueller's translated work is mostly out of print and has been released by various publishers, not all of them sure they still own the rights.

Holt/Metropolitan, an imprint of Macmillan, will reissue hardcovers of "The Land of Green Plums" and "The Appointment," while paperbacks are planned by the Macmillan imprint Picador. Serpent's Tail, which 20 years ago released Mueller's "The Passport," will have a new edition out Oct. 19. Northwestern University Press was trying to determine whether it could reprint "Traveling On One Leg."

"The nice thing about this prize is that brings attention to us and shows people the kind of works we publish," said Levine of Northwestern, which announced last month that the school's highly regarded TriQuarterly literary journal would become an online only publication.

"These days, that's a great thing for a university press."

Steven Spielberg receives Liberty Medal in Philly

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Award-winning filmmaker Steven Spielberg, long recognized for his artistic achievements, was honored with the Liberty Medal on Thursday for his compassion and humanitarian work.

Former President Bill Clinton presented the medal to Spielberg at the National Constitution Center, which offers history-based exhibits focused on the U.S. Constitution and gives the annual award to those whose actions represent the founding principles of the United States.

"We honor a man today who has always been able to make a simple story and make it scary, make a simple story and make it interesting and make a simple story and remind us of the greatness in us all," Clinton said.

Spielberg's movies include the Holocaust drama "Schindler's List" and the World War II epic "Saving Private Ryan," which both landed him Academy Awards.

"Art is and should endeavor to be among the human enterprises that contribute to the building of good and free societies," said Spielberg, whose other projects include "Amistad," about a slave ship mutiny, and the HBO series "Band of Brothers," about a company of soldiers during World War II.

In choosing Spielberg for the award, the center said he "presented stories of the struggle and triumph of humanity over tyranny, informing and inspiring millions to better understand the abiding call of liberty."

After making "Schindler's List," based on the true story of a man who tries to save Jews from the Nazis, Spielberg established a foundation to produce video and oral histories of Holocaust survivors.

The Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation became part of the University of Southern California in Los Angeles in 2006. Its collection now stands at nearly 52,000 video testimonies in 32 languages, representing 56 countries.

Spielberg, who won Oscars for best director and best picture for "Schindler's List" and best director for "Saving Private Ryan," will donate the Liberty Medal's $100,000 cash prize to that organization, the National Constitution Center said.

The medal was established in 1988. Previous winners have included rock singer and human rights activist Bono, former South African President Nelson Mandela and former U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

AP

Former President Bill Clinton, right, applauds filmmaker Steven Spielberg during the 2009 Liberty Medal ceremony in Philadelphia, Thursday, Oct. 8, 2009.

AP

In this July 7, 2006 file photo, Dr. Conrad Murray poses for a photo as he opens the Acres Homes Cardiovascular Center at the Tidwell Professional Building, in Houston.

Jackson doctor may face arrest over child support

LAS VEGAS (AP)—The doctor at the center of an investigation into Michael Jackson's death may face arrest and could lose his medical license after missing a hearing to explain late child support payments, the Las Vegas district attorney said Thursday.

Clark County District Attorney David Roger told The Associated Press that a district judge could approve an arrest warrant for Dr. Conrad Murray that's recommended by a family court hearing master within 10 days.

"At that time, we'll send our investigators out to locate and arrest Dr. Murray," Roger said.

Roger says Murray, who owes $13,000 in unpaid child support to a California woman, can object to the warrant before a judge approves it.

Murray's lawyer in the Jackson case, Edward Chernoff, is not representing Murray in the family court case, Chernoff spokeswoman Miranda Sevcik said Thursday.

"Ed's dealing with one thing and one thing only, and that's the investigation into Michael Jackson's death," Sevcik said.

Sevcik said she did not know whether the 56-year-old doctor had another attorney for the child support case.

Roger said he also plans to ask the state medical board to suspend Murray's medical license because of the unpaid support. Roger said his office would soon file a motion in family court and send a letter to the board saying Murray is behind on his payments.

Murray would have 30 days after that to make good on past payments, or risk suspension of his professional license, Roger said.

Nevada laws allow prosecutors to go after professional licenses belonging to those behind on child support.

"We're not singling out Dr. Murray, this is an option that we frequently use in order to make sure that people pay their obligations," Roger said.

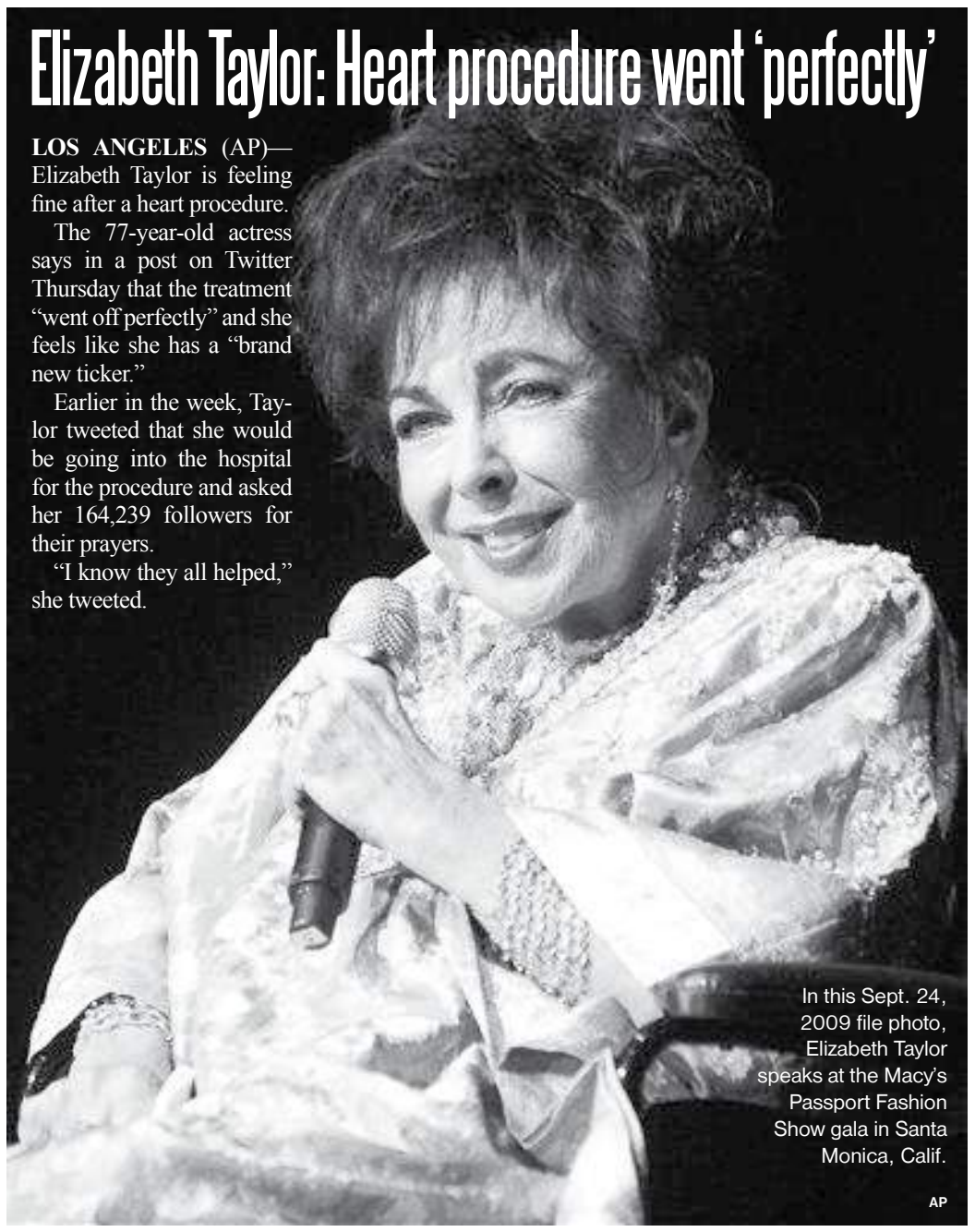
Elizabeth Taylor: Heart procedure went 'perfectly'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Elizabeth Taylor is feeling fine after a heart procedure.

The 77-year-old actress says in a post on Twitter Thursday that the treatment "went off perfectly" and she feels like she has a "brand new ticker."

Earlier in the week, Taylor tweeted that she would be going into the hospital for the procedure and asked her 164,239 followers for their prayers.

"I know they all helped," she tweeted.



In this Sept. 24, 2009 file photo, Elizabeth Taylor speaks at the Macy's Passport Fashion Show gala in Santa Monica, Calif.

AP

Gloria Estefan buys concert tickets for PR jobless

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—Thousands of laid-off government employees in Puerto Rico will be doing the conga for free, thanks to Gloria Estefan.

The Cuban-born singer bought some 2,000 tickets for her weekend concert and they will distributed by raffle among the nearly 17,000 workers who learned last month that they will lose their jobs beginning Nov. 6.

Stefan bought all the remaining upper-level tickets—at $40 each—as a gift to those who were affected, said Harold Rosario, the singer's spokesman in Puerto Rico, said Thursday.

Officials have begun distributing the tickets to various government agencies, which will raffle them.

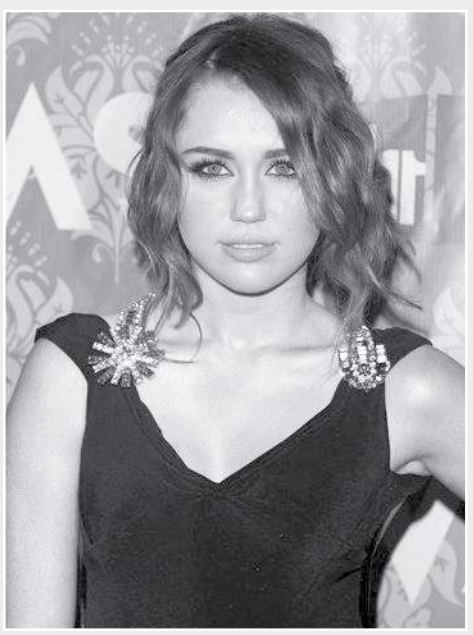
The government announced the layoffs in late September as it tries to close the gap on a $3.2 billion deficit. The U.S. territory is struggling with its third year of recession with a 15 percent unemployment rate, higher than any U.S. state.

Tickets to hear the seven-time Grammy winner sing Saturday range from $40 to $125.

Almost 8,000 tickets have been sold so far, Rosario said.

AP

Latin singer Gloria Estefan answers a question during a news conference after her arrival in San Juan, Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2009.



Cyrus quits Twitter, deletes accounts

NEW YORK (AP)—Miley Cyrus has quit Twitter, leaving her fans puzzled over her abrupt exit.

The teen pop star was one of the most popular people on the microblogging site, with more than 1.1 million followers. But the account for the 16-year-old Cyrus is no longer available.

In one of her last posts, she wrote that Liam Hemsworth, her co-star in the upcoming film "The Last Song," wanted her to delete her Twitter account "with good reason."

Publicists for Cyrus didn't immediately return requests for comment Thursday.

Fans of Cyrus have organized on Twitter under the heading "mileycomeback," which was one of the most popular topics on the site Thursday.

In this Sept. 17, 2009 file photo, recording artist Miley Cyrus arrives at VH1 Divas concert in New York.

AP

Despite unhappy past, girls resist parents' future divorce

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am a 15-year-old boy who has known for as long as I can remember that my parents would eventually divorce. I can't remember a day in my life without their constant fighting. Dad has been out of the house for a year now, and our home situation is better.

My sisters, on the other hand, are torn apart. They cry at the mention of the word divorce, which has yet to happen. My older sister is having problems at school and self-esteem issues. My younger sister cries for things to be the way they were—even though everyone was unhappy.

My mother and I recognize that we are happier and are ready to make changes, like moving into a new house and proceeding with the divorce. But because of my sisters, she has asked me if my father should move back in. I desperately want progress, but feel it won't ever come. How can we all let go?

TEEN IN STATEN ISLAND

DEAR TEEN: A mother should not be asking her 15-year-old son whether she should be giving her marriage another try. If she's ambivalent, she should make that decision with the help of a therapist—which might also be extremely helpful for you and your sisters.

All of you are experiencing the stress of the impending divorce, and you have my sympathy. But when a marriage is as dysfunctional as your parents' has been, sometimes the sanest answer for all concerned is that it come to an end.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I agreed to help her sister and our niece by allowing them to stay with us in our home due to financial hardship on their part. They pay only their share of the utilities; no rent is included.

We have recently learned that they're not really having a financial problem. My sister-in-law lied to us about their situation. In fact, she makes more money than I do, and she's putting half her earnings into her retirement investment account. What is the right way to approach this problem?

DECEIVED IN SACRAMENTO

DEAR DECEIVED: Your sister-in-law's behavior is reprehensible. As I see it, you have a couple of choices. You can take the indirect approach by clipping this letter, attaching it to a large piece of paper and printing on it, "You have three days to make other living arrangements," and leaving it on your sister-in-law's pillow. Or the direct one, which would be to tell her that the jig is up, she's no longer welcome under your roof, and you want her and her daughter to pack their bags immediately.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm a teacher who is concerned by the trend of families displaying caricatures of their family members, along with the names, on the back of their car windows. Some of them not only list every child's name, but also the name of the family pet!

While this may seem cute, it is also advertising personal information to complete strangers. Anyone could approach your children, call them by name, convince them they know the family, and then kidnap them or worse. Why wouldn't they trust someone who even knows their dog's name?

Please print this to raise awareness among parents who may not realize the consequences of such a thoughtless action.

CONCERNED TEACHER, YORBA LINDA, CALIF.

DEAR CONCERNED TEACHER: Consider it done.

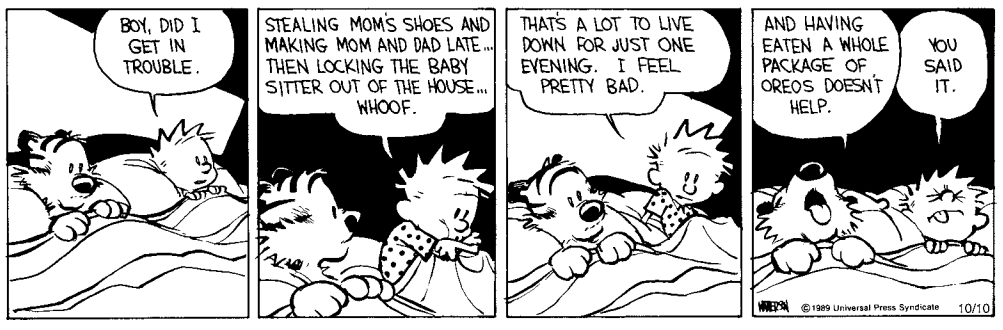
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


BOY, DID I GET IN TROUBLE.
STEALING MOM'S SHOES AND MAKING MOM AND DAD LATE... THEN LOCKING THE BABY SITTER OUT OF THE HOUSE... WHOOF.
THAT'S A LOT TO LIVE DOWN FOR JUST ONE EVENING. I FEEL PRETTY BAD.
AND HAVING EATEN A WHOLE PACKAGE OF OREOS DOESN'T HELP.
YOU SAID IT.
©1989 Universal Press Syndicate
10/10

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

COLONEL, LOOK! A UFO HAS LANDED ON THE PARADE GROUND!
EGAD, CORPORAL, THIS IS HISTORIC! MAN MEETS ALIENS! WHAT A MOMENT!
WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?
EMPTYING THEIR SEPTIC TANK, SIR
"SAUCER TRASH"
www.garfield.com
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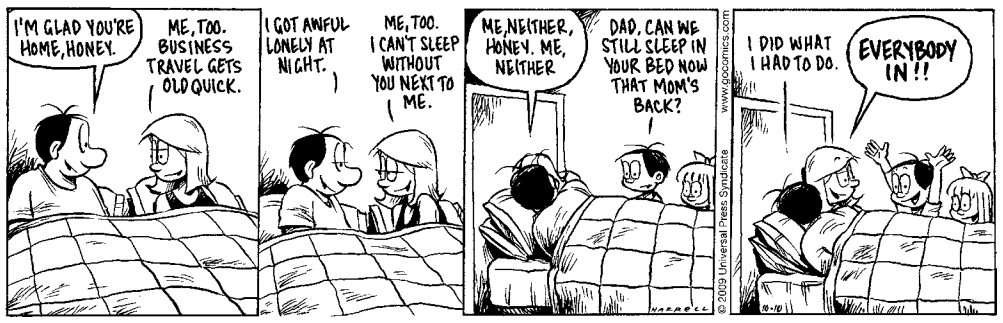
JIM DAVIS 10-10

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I'M GLAD YOU'RE HOME, HONEY.
ME, TOO. BUSINESS TRAVEL GETS OLD QUICK.
I GOT AWFUL LONELY AT NIGHT.
ME, TOO. I CAN'T SLEEP WITHOUT YOU NEXT TO ME.
ME, NEITHER, HONEY. ME, NEITHER
DAD, CAN WE STILL SLEEP IN YOUR BED NOW THAT MOM'S BACK?
I DID WHAT I HAD TO DO.
EVERYBODY IN!!
www.gocomics.com
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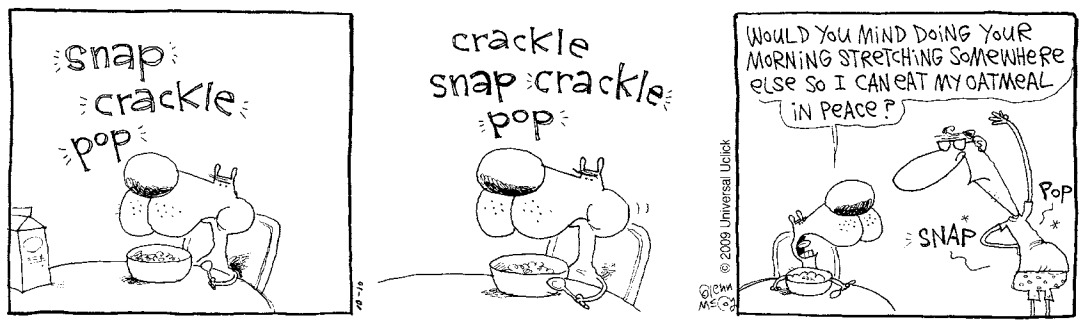
10-10

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


snap crackle pop
crackle snap crackle pop
WOULD YOU MIND DOING YOUR MORNING STRETCHING SOMEWHERE ELSE SO I CAN EAT MY OATMEAL IN PEACE?
POP
SNAP
© 2009 Universal Uclick

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Desolate
6 Opening night
11 Hi-fi hookup
12 Muse of astronomy
14 Spirit of friendship?
15 Equine gait
16 Conclusive (Abbr.)
17 Some pugilistic punches
19 Regret
20 Keg contents
22 "The Greatest"
23 Former larva
24 Calculating snake?
26 Strip
28 Force (Lat.)
30 "Holy cow!"
31 Win
35 Letters after alephs
39 Got up
40 Corn spike
42 Night light
43 U.N. workers' grp.
44 "The Crucible" setting
46 Literary collection
47 Mobile sculptor Alexander
49 Slight convexity
51 Last
52 Sailor's assent
53 Oust from the ABA
54 Indications of hunger

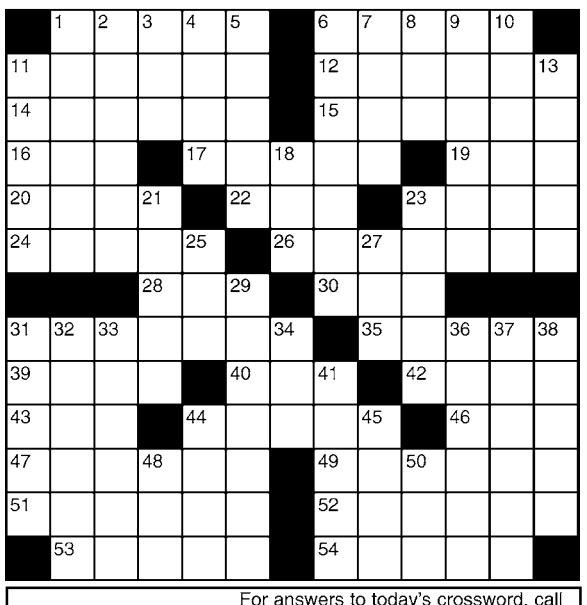
DOWN

1 Got old
2 Tried
3 Dadaist artist
4 Stagger
5 "M*A*S*H" locale
6 Channel system
7 Important periods
8 Prohibit
9 False
10 Gridlocks
11 Cousteau's gear
13 Neighborhoods
18 Winter ailment
21 Series of skits
23 Groom carefully
25 Edge
27 Society newbie
29 One skilled with a harpoon
31 Moment
32 "Doonesbury" journalist Hedley
33 Tristan's love
34 Actor Holbrook
36 It gets into hot water
37 Sweeties
38 Trap
41 Summary
44 Evening (Ital.)
45 Poet Angelou
48 Fix the soundtrack
50 Lavatory sign

Solution time: 27 mins.

M	A	J	O	R	■	B	I	G	■	A	L	P
E	R	O	D	E	■	O	R	E	■	S	I	R
S	K	E	E	T	■	W	O	E	I	S	M	E
■	■	D	R	I	V	E	N	■	C	A	B	S
S	K	I	■	E	A	R	■	L	I	M	O	S
O	A	R	S	■	N	Y	L	O	N	■	■	■
P	Y	T	H	O	N	■	O	U	G	H	T	S
■	■	■	E	X	A	C	T	■	S	O	U	P
A	S	S	A	Y	■	A	U	F	■	E	T	A
S	T	E	T	■	E	N	S	U	E	D	■	■
T	O	E	H	O	L	D	■	S	P	O	D	E
E	L	M	■	A	M	O	■	S	E	W	E	R
R	E	S	■	F	O	R	■	Y	E	N	T	A

Yesterday's answer 10-10



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mya, 30; Jodi Lyn O'Keefe, 31; Brett Favre, 40; David Lee Roth, 55

Happy Birthday: There are plenty of things to consider before you can possibly more on from the past. Unless you resolve, rethink or redo, nothing can be accomplished. Pick up the pieces. You can make so many gains professionally, personally and financially if you just do what's required of yourself quickly and efficiently. Your numbers are 4, 11, 15, 26, 32, 47, 49

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Difficulties at home will leave you questioning if you have made the right choices lately. Before you are too hard on yourself, consider that other people have contributed to the goings on and you are probably better off taking a wait-and-see attitude, even if it doesn't suit your Aries personality. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Get on track and do something spectacular that will surprise your friends and encourage your family to pitch in and help. An onlooker may be jealous and try to cause problems, so stick to your plans and surround yourself with the people you know and love. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't feel pressured to make a decision if you aren't ready. Focus on what you can do for others and get involved in a cause that will bring you in contact with creative people of common interests. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): If you don't like something, keep it to yourself until you are in a better frame of mind. You are likely to be out of sorts regarding a financial obligation or deal you have made. Take time to think matters through. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): A change of plans may upset you at first but, if you move forward without a fuss, things will fall into place. A short trip will be exhilarating and bring you in contact with someone you find fascinating. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Follow your own path and don't give in to anyone trying to manipulate what you do or where you go. Take control and you will gain ground financially, personally and emotionally. You will gain respect if you take the initiative. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Take a break. Trying to work or do things the way others want you to do them will be futile. Instead, give yourself some space so you can recognize why things aren't going according to plan. Perhaps you need to redirect your efforts. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You should be moving about experiencing new things and taking advantage of the freedom you have to explore new avenues. Travel will enable you to meet someone who can contribute to a work in progress. Love will take you on a strange journey. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You may not be seeing the broader picture when it comes to your work or your personal life. Let things unfold naturally and you will avoid some of the pitfalls of making a decision based on partial facts. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Show everyone the side of you that is fun-loving, free-spirited and playful. Concentrate on making the most of the relationships you cherish and sorting through any of the emotional troubles your loved ones have been experiencing. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You'll view things differently if you put yourself in someone else's shoes. Compassion, understanding and fair play will get you a whole lot further ahead when dealing with emotional issues, settlements or agreements. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): A relationship that is important to you can be brought out into the open. Then you can clarify what you want, what you expect and what your plans for the future might be. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are emotional and sensitive. You are imaginative, innovative and interested in doing something that will make a difference.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		8		7		5		
		7				3		
9	6						4	8
			7		6			
2								7
			1		2			
4	2						1	5
		9				6		
		3		1		9		

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 10/10

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	1	7	3	5	9	4	6	2
6	9	3	4	2	1	5	7	8
2	5	4	7	8	6	3	1	9
5	3	2	6	1	7	9	8	4
1	6	8	9	4	2	7	3	5
7	4	9	8	3	5	1	2	6
9	7	1	2	6	4	8	5	3
4	8	6	5	7	3	2	9	1
3	2	5	1	9	8	6	4	7

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 10/09

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THE KHMER EMPIRE **Solution: 9 letters**

Y	A	A	P	S	A	R	A	S	E	I	H	A	R	G
S	A	N	G	K	O	R	T	H	O	M	A	R	I	A
N	R	S	A	R	O	L	U	O	S	H	P	T	O	T
C	S	I	O	M	I	S	H	I	V	A	M	I	V	K
A	H	H	V	D	R	C	M	T	J	R	A	S	R	A
M	G	E	T	I	H	A	U	A	L	B	H	T	E	E
B	K	M	N	I	J	A	V	L	G	A	C	I	S	N
O	V	I	O	L	A	A	R	A	T	N	E	C	E	E
D	I	T	K	A	A	F	Y	A	Y	U	I	W	R	A
I	S	I	D	O	T	(D)	E	A	P	A	R	L	O	K
A	H	R	E	O	H	S	(N)	A	L	U	J	E	Y	P
L	N	A	V	A	R	K	T	(A)	S	A	R	P	A	E
E	U	M	R	S	D	E	E	D	(L)	T	O	A	L	A
T	E	C	A	L	A	P	R	R	W	A	I	S	A	N
S	A	T	C	H	A	K	R	A	V	A	R	T	I	N

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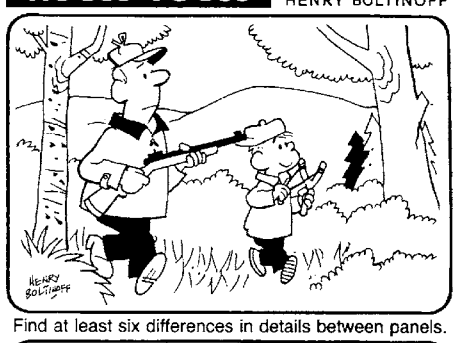
Agriculture, Angkor Thom, Apsaras, Artistic, Asia, Brahmi, Cambodia, Carved, Chakravartin, Champa, Chenla, Deeds, Empire, Faiths, Feast, Grahi, Java, Jayavarman, KohKer, Land, Laos, Lingam, Maritime, Moats, Neak Pean, Neak Ta, Palace, Prasat Kravan, Reservoir, Roluos, Royal, Shiva, Srivijaya, Stela, Vishnu, Wealth, Yasodharapura

Yesterday's Answer: Tax Cut

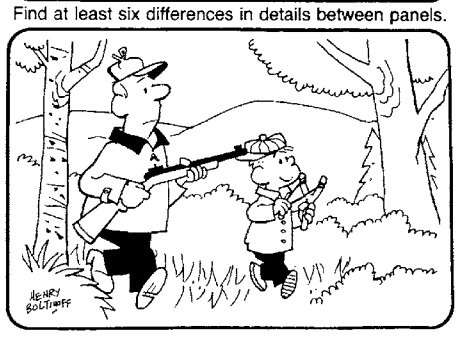
NEW FROM WONDERWORD! The Wonderword 2010 Desk Calendar is now available for pre-order on Amazon.com and Calendars.com. Search: "Wonderword Calendar." Order yours today!

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Tree is missing. 2. Boy's hat is different. 3. Boy's jacket has buttons. 4. Tree has extra branch. 5. Leaves missing from tree on left. 6. Gun stock is longer.

Wishing Well®

2	5	7	6	2	5	7	2	4	8	3	5	7
H	C	A	E	A	O	B	V	H	M	P	N	I
8	3	4	7	3	5	7	6	3	2	6	3	2
A	L	A	L	A	S	I	N	N	E	J	Y	C
3	5	7	2	7	2	8	2	8	4	7	5	7
O	I	T	O	I	U	K	R	E	R	E	D	S
5	4	8	5	6	4	6	7	6	4	5	4	2
E	M	C	R	O	O	Y	E	H	N	C	Y	A
5	7	5	3	6	7	8	6	5	6	7	4	3
H	N	O	U	U	H	H	M	I	O	A	A	R
4	6	4	8	3	8	5	2	4	2	7	3	4
T	R	H	A	F	N	C	G	O	E	N	U	M
7	5	8	4	7	5	7	3	8	3	8	3	3
C	E	G	E	E	S	D	T	E	U	S	R	E

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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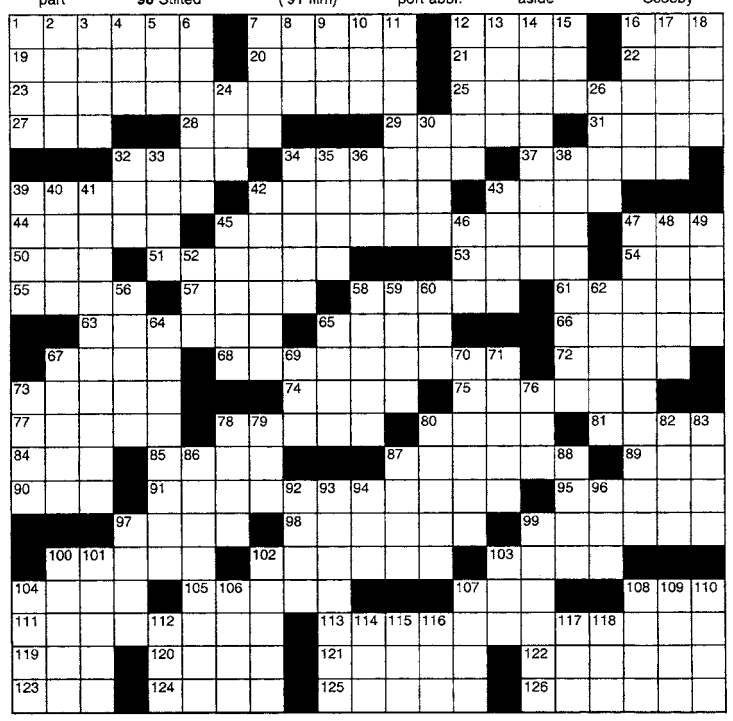
Super Crossword

APT ANAGRAMS

ACROSS
1 Yankee Jorge
7 Pool shot
12 Dictates
16 Make cheddar better
19 Diverted
20 Cara or Castle
21 Tennis pro Nastase
22 New Deal agcy.
23 SLOT MACHINES
25 Traces
27 Paleozoic —
28 Aye opponent
29 Remove
31 Artist Mondrian
32 Prepare pancakes
34 Sewed a toe
37 Ruhr Valley city
39 Victorian ornaments
42 Capitol gang?
43 Loyal
44 Maine town
45 HMS PINAFORE
47 Drill sergeant's shout
50 "O Sole —"
51 Advantage
53 Drainpipe part
54 New Haven collegian
55 Prohibits
57 Coup d'—
58 Opening remark?
61 Automaton
63 Halloween decoration
65 Content completely
66 Let out the lava
67 Comic Laurel
68 DORMITORY
72 Philosopher
73 Got wind of
74 Commanded
75 Lions and tigers and bears
77 Concur
78 Condescend
80 Finish filming
81 "Good gracious!"
84 Woody herb
85 Fiber source
87 Connected
89 "— pro nobis"
90 Part of MPH
91 ENDEARMENTS
95 Snowy fisherman
97 — vu
98 Stilted
99 Singer Stratas
100 Garden tool
102 Last name in fashion
103 Act catty?
104 Put on a happy face
105 Hold fast
107 Clerical garb
108 Luau neckwear
111 Siberian monk
113 THE MORSE CODE
119 Qty.
120 Golfer Ballesteros
121 A great composer?
122 Lacking principles
123 Salon supply
124 Paradise
125 TV exec Arledge
126 Bean

DOWN
1 Wear out the carpet
2 Actor Epps
3 Iranian city
4 Timber tree
5 Tierra — Fuego
6 Classical hunk?
7 "— Slickers" ('91 film)
8 White House spokesman Fleischer
9 Stimpy's pal
10 "Johnny — Note" ('37 song)
11 Keepsake
12 Enraged
13 One of the Waughs
14 Showy shrub
15 Jell
16 Actress Harmon
17 Word with tea or pepper
18 — India Company
24 Fool
26 "— dixit"
30 Swerve
32 Marsh
33 Crochet unit
34 Resign
35 Without — (daringly)
36 Brit. fliers
38 Hold back
39 Fowl feature
40 "Turandot" tune
41 ASTRONOMER
42 Pay hike?
43 "Comin' — the Rye"
45 Prominent
46 Missouri airport abbr.
47 GEORGE BUSH
48 Take the honey and run
49 See 104 Down
52 Chianti color
56 Show mercy
58 "Surprise Symphony" composer
59 Raison d'—
60 August one?
62 Spout like Cicero
64 Beholden
65 Forest father
67 Smooth transition
69 Slugger's stat
70 Edmond of "The Barefoot Contessa"
71 Capital
73 — seal
76 "Tarzan" extra
78 Actor Ashbrook
79 Complete
80 Lawrence's "— in Love"
82 Olympic warmonger
83 Base stuff?
86 Tossed aside
87 Jewelry material
88 "The — Hunter" ('78 film)
92 Actor McGregor
93 More turbulent
94 Scand. nation
96 Weimaraner's warning
97 Clammy
99 Abolitionist Harriet
100 Disreputable
101 Ersatz emerald
102 It may suit you
103 Arafat's grp.
104 With 49 Down, "Spy Game" star
106 Reside
107 43,560 square feet
108 Feudal superior
109 List ender
110 Vacation location
112 Manipulate
114 Ike's domain
115 Sweater letter
116 Sundown, to Shelley
117 Comic Philips
118 TV's "Scooby- —



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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. GEOGRAPHY: What is the tallest mountain in Western Europe?
2. LANGUAGE: What does the Latin phrase "in media res" mean?
3. FAMOUS QUOTATIONS: What famous writer said, "I hate to advocate drugs, alcohol, violence, or insanity to anyone, but they've always worked for me"?
4. AD SLOGANS: What products were sold with the advertising slogan, "Sometimes you feel like a nut, sometimes you don't"?
5. MUSIC: In musical notation, what does it mean to play notes in a "staccato" style?
6. U.S. PRESIDENTS: What was the Secret Service's code name for John F. Kennedy?
7. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: How many official languages does the United Nations have?
8. PSYCHOLOGY: People who suffer from misopedia have an abnormal dislike of what?
9. TELEVISION: Which actress, upon winning an Emmy for best supporting role, shouted "This is for all the fat girls"?
10. MEDICAL TERMS: What is the common name for monochromatism?

Answers

1. Mont Blanc
2. In the middle of things
3. Hunter S. Thompson
4. Mounds and Almond Joy candy bars
5. Playing crisp, disconnected notes
6. Lancer
7. Six (English, Arabic, Spanish, Chinese, French and Russian)
8. Children
9. Camryn Manheim of "The Practice"
10. Complete color blindness

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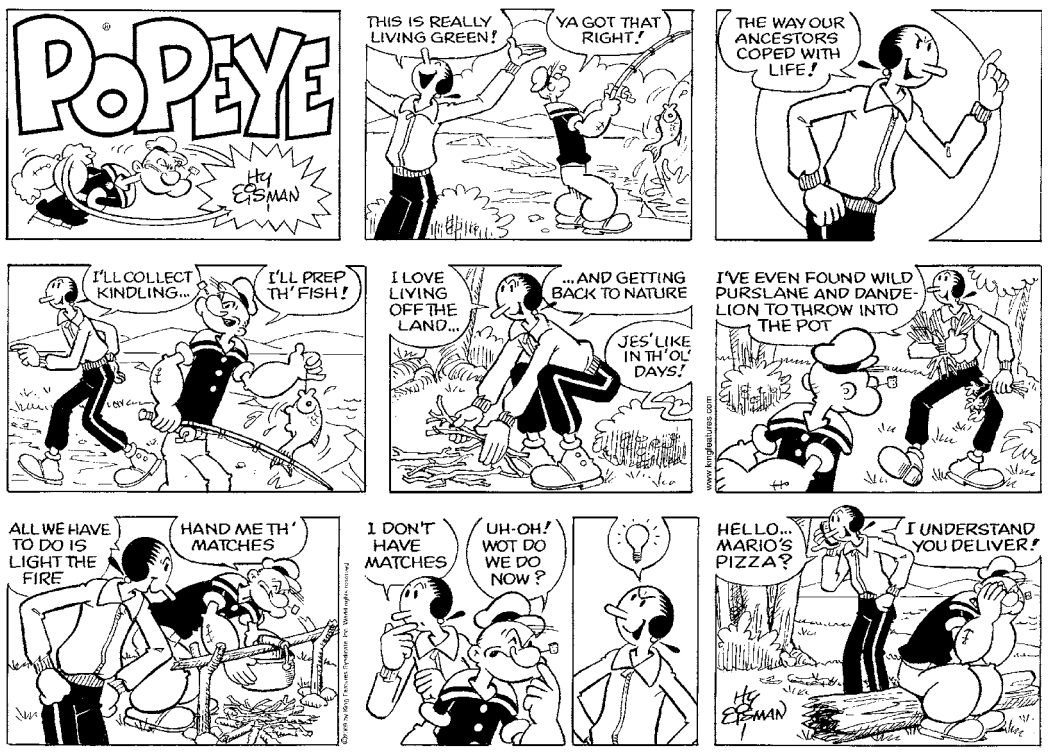
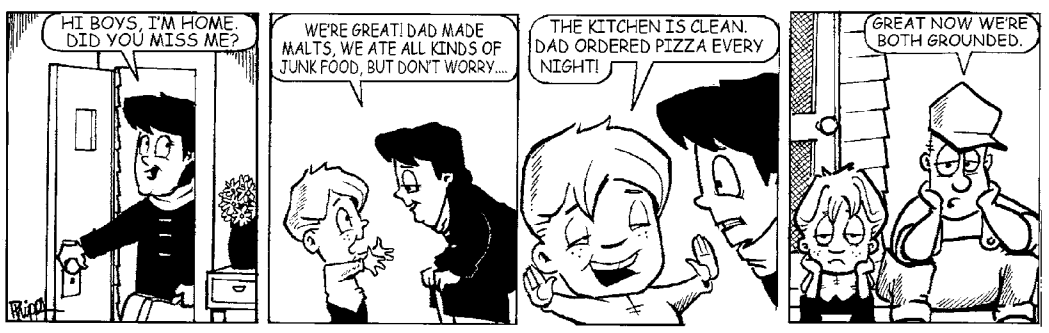
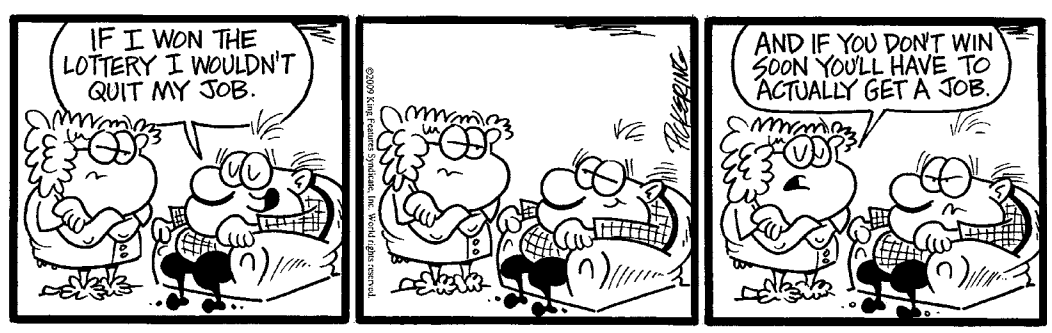
Saturday's Answers


POPEYE
HY EISMAN
THIS IS REALLY LIVING GREEN!
YA GOT THAT RIGHT!
THE WAY OUR ANCESTORS COPED WITH LIFE!
I'LL COLLECT KINDLING...
I'LL PREP TH' FISH!
I LOVE LIVING OFF THE LAND...
...AND GETTING BACK TO NATURE
JES' LIKE IN TH' OL' DAYS!
I'VE EVEN FOUND WILD PURSLANE AND DANDELION TO THROW INTO THE POT
ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS LIGHT THE FIRE
HAND ME TH' MATCHES
I DON'T HAVE MATCHES
UH-OH! WOT DO WE DO NOW?
HELLO... MARIO'S PIZZA?
I UNDERSTAND YOU DELIVER!

Amber Waves by Dave T. Phipps

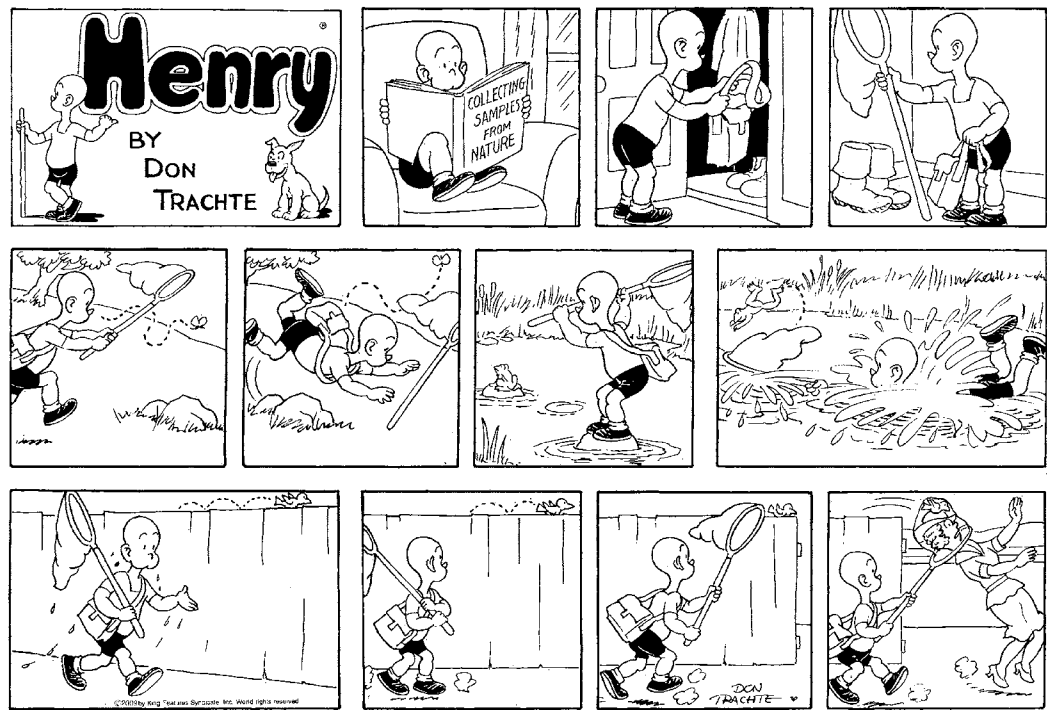

HI BOYS, I'M HOME. DID YOU MISS ME?
WE'RE GREAT! DAD MADE MALTS, WE ATE ALL KINDS OF JUNK FOOD, BUT DON'T WORRY....
THE KITCHEN IS CLEAN. DAD ORDERED PIZZA EVERY NIGHT!
GREAT NOW WE'RE BOTH GROUNDED.

The Spats by Jeff Pickering



They'll Do It Every Time by Al Scaduto

WHYIZZIT? THE MORE CRAMPED THE SPACE BEHIND THE COUNTER, THE HEFTIER THE WAITRESSES...
Thanx to CINDY at the COFFEE SHOP, PLAINVIEW, N.Y.
LITTLE WHITE LIES #1,753~
MY, MY! WHAT A BEE-YOOT-I-FUL LITTLE BOY... HE COULD BE A BABY MODEL.. OH-H-H... SO-O ADORABLE...
GLOOP..
Thank to B. STANTON, SEATTLE, WA.
...HERE ARE SOME MORE OF WOMBO AS A BABY, AND HERE'S JUNIOR ALL THE WAY FROM KINDER-GARTEN TO HIGH SCHOOL..
ALL DIFFERENT PHOTOGRAPHS, I NOTICE...
PROOF
Thanx to PHIL & MILT M., ROCKVILLE, MD.
PHOTO FINISH— THE PROOFS ARE FREE.. and SOMEHOW THE PINCHLEYS NEVER ORDER THE FINISHED PHOTOGRAPHS.. ASK ANY PHOTOGGER, HE'LL TELL YOU....



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Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Dr. Cri__en

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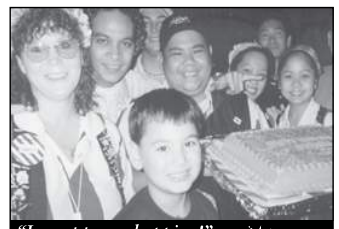
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Oceanview & Sunsetview Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

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Hunter homers, Lackey pitches Angels past Red Sox

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Right when Torii Hunter's three-run homer hit the rock pile beyond center field at Angel Stadium, two bursts of fireworks shot up from the artificial boulders. The moment hardly needed the pyrotechnic punctuation. After several years of playoff frustrations against the Boston Red Sox, the Angels finally have a breakthrough.

John Lackey pitched into the eighth inning of his first postseason victory since 2002, and Hunter's big hit in the fifth inning sent the Angels to a 5-0 victory over their longtime playoff nemesis in their first-round opener Thursday night.

While Lackey's steady brilliance kept Boston off the postseason scoreboard for the first time in 14 years, Hunter's shot broke open a scoreless game. It also seemed to topple any mental barriers Los Angeles might have faced against the Red Sox, who ended three of the Angels' past five seasons in the division series, winning nine of 10 games.

"Whatever the hex is, I guess somebody un-hexed it," Angels leadoff hitter Chone Figgins said. "We've played tight games with them before, and they came out on top. But we had the ace going on the mound, and Torii got a big hit."

Boston didn't manage an extra-base hit while getting shut out in the playoffs for the first time since Game 2 of the 1995 division series against Cleveland. The shutout was the first in the Angels' 53-game postseason history.

Game 2 is Friday night at Angel Stadium, with Boston's Josh Beckett facing Jered Weaver.

The AL West champion Angels snapped a six-game home playoff losing streak behind Lackey, who used fine control and good defense to win in the postseason for the first time since Game 7 of the World Series seven years ago.

"(Lackey) went out there and set the tone early," Hunter said. "Man, we were so pumped up from then on. I'm excited about this start today."

After striking out four and allowing four singles over 7 1-3 innings, Lackey doffed his cap to a standing ovation. Darren Oliver finished up with 1 2-3 innings of hitless relief.

"Even in the bullpen, I knew my arm was feeling good," said Lackey, who pitched just once in the previous 11 days. "The extra rest that I had really helped me out. I really felt like my arm was pretty live tonight. ... Our fans get dogged for not being loud enough, but they brought it tonight, and that ovation I got coming off the mound meant a lot to me."

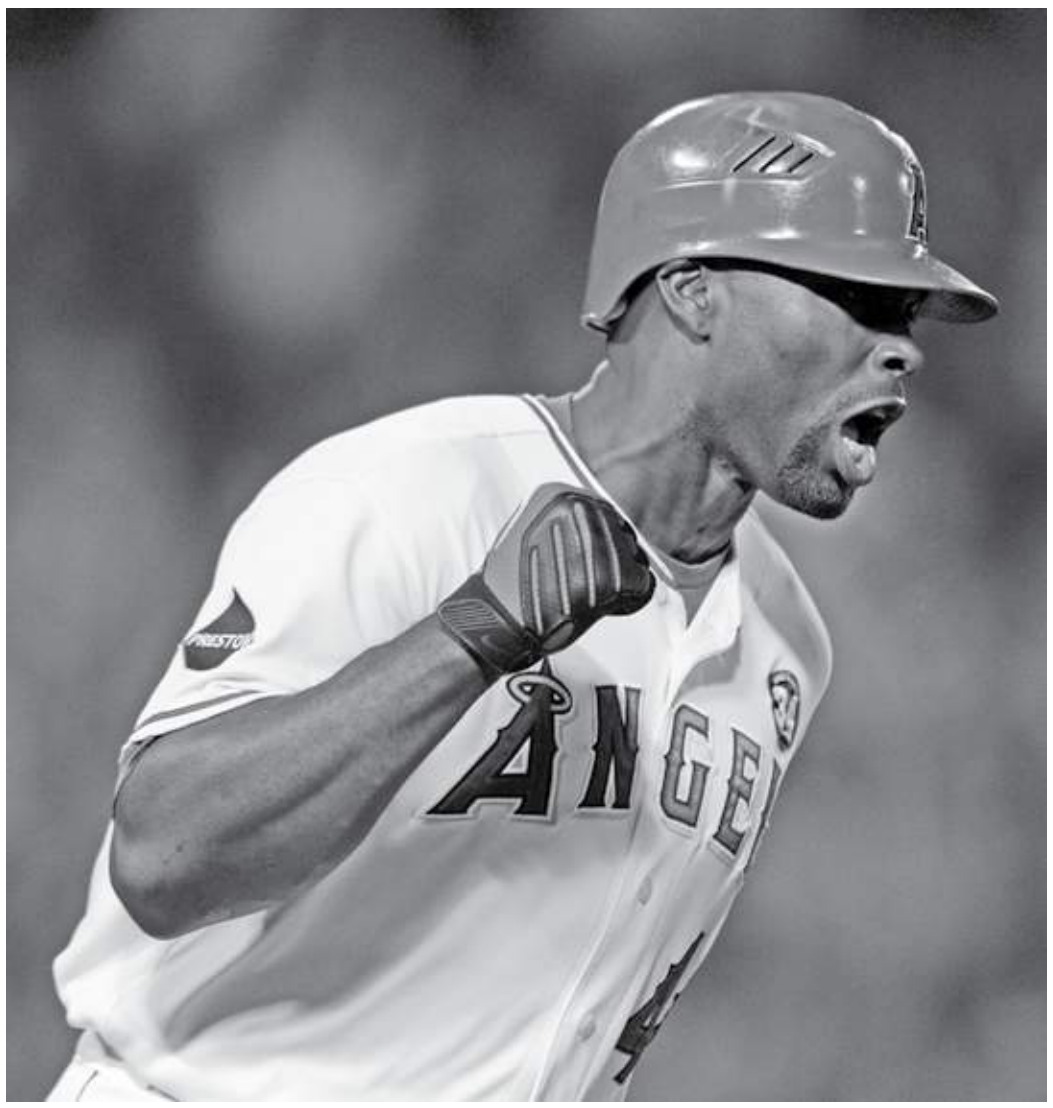
Jon Lester allowed four hits over six innings for the wild-card Red Sox, who had won five straight playoff series openers. Lester wasn't as sharp as Lackey during his second loss since July 19, but he avoided trouble until the fifth.

Erick Aybar started the rally with a leadoff double down the left-field line. After Bobby Abreu walked, Hunter smashed Lester's second pitch off the Disneyland-esque artificial rock pile for his fourth postseason homer.

"That was huge because of the way Lackey was pitching. Three runs looked like a lot," Boston manager Terry Francona said.

Kendry Morales added a late run-scoring single and Abreu drew four walks for the Angels, who had lost six straight home playoff games. Although they've made six of the past eight postseasons, the Angels lost three of four last fall to the Red Sox, who won the World Series after bouncing Los Angeles from the division series in 2004 and 2007.

"I think by and large we're a pretty good offensive team, and Lackey shut us down with four singles," Jason Bay said. "Four singles and three errors isn't going to win too many ballgames, so you tip your hat a little bit. But I think we can be better."



AP

Los Angeles Angels' Torii Hunter pumps his fist as he rounds the bases after hitting a three-run home run against the Boston Red Sox during the fifth inning in Game 1 of the American League division baseball series Thursday, Oct. 8, 2009 in Anaheim, Calif.

Boston took the first two games at Angel Stadium in last season's division series, including Lester's 4-1 win over Lackey in the opener. In fact, the Angels had lost 12 of their 13 playoff games against Boston since the infamous Game 5 of the 1986 AL championship series, won in extra innings by the Red Sox after a ninth-inning rally capped by Dave Henderson's homer.

Lackey had to escape just two jams in the first six innings, stranding two runners in the third on Dustin Pedroia's fly to right before getting Kevin Youkilis' grounder to third with two on in the sixth.

Los Angeles padded its lead in the seventh on Morales' run-scoring hit and a heads-up play by Juan Rivera, who advanced to third and then scampered home when Jason Bay's throw from left field got away. J.D. Drew threw out Morales at the plate moments later to end the inning.

"We gave them some extra opportunities," Francona said.

Despite the Angels' ominous playoff history against the Red Sox, the noisy Orange County crowd didn't seem to be anticipating disappointment while clacking its ThunderStix and easily drowning out the surprisingly small Boston fan contingent on a slightly chilly night.

Neither pitcher faced much trouble until the third, when Lester issued back-to-back walks to load the bases before striking out Vladimir Guerrero on three pitches.

The Red Sox couldn't get a break from first base umpire CB Bucknor, who twice called Howie Kendrick safe after Youkilis snagged wide throws. On both plays, in the fourth and sixth inning, replays appeared to contradict Bucknor's calls—but the Angels did nothing with either opportunity.

Dodgers 3, Cardinals 2

At Los Angeles, Matt Holliday dropped a catch that would have won the game for St. Louis, allowing the Los Angeles Dodgers to fight back for a over the Cardinals, taking a 2-0 lead in their National League playoff series.

With two outs in the bottom of the ninth, Holliday charged in to catch a sinking line drive from James Loney, but misjudged it, spilling the catch and allowing Loney to reach second base.

Ronnie Belliard and pinch-hitter Mark Loretta then came through with RBI singles off St. Louis' All-Star closer Ryan Franklin, giving the Dodgers a victory that moves them within one win of clinching the best-of-five series. They can close it out in Game 3 on Saturday in St. Louis.

The Cardinals got a second-inning homer from Holliday and a stellar performance by starter Adam Wainwright, who left with a 2-1 lead after eight innings. Still, St. Louis went home empty-handed and winless after two games when it had used Cy Young Award contenders on the mound: Chris Carpenter and Wainwright.

Belliard's single in the ninth scored pinch-runner Juan Pierre and tied the scores. A passed ball moved runners up to second and third, and Franklin walked Russell Martin to load the bases.

Loretta, who was 0 for 15 in his career against Franklin, hit a soft single to center that drove in Casey Blake.

Rockies 5, Phillies 4

In Philadelphia, Yorvit Torrealba hit a two-run homer to help Colorado edge Philadelphia and square their NL series at 1-1.

Colorado's Huston Street pitched out of trouble in the ninth to save it. He retired Shane Victorino on a soft liner toward second base to leave the potential tying run at second.

Cole Hamels, the World Series MVP last year, looked nothing like the dominant pitcher during Philadelphia's championship run last October. He allowed four runs in five innings. He didn't stick around after departing, rushing off to be with his wife, Heidi, who was in labor with the couple's first child.

The best-of-five series shifts to Denver for Game 3 on Saturday.

After a summer of new hobbies, Shaq tries yoga

INDEPENDENCE, Ohio (AP)—Shaquille O'Neal has made a career out of twisting around opposing centers.

Now he is doing it to himself.

After a summer of boxing, football, beach volleyball and swimming, Shaq has a new hobby—yoga. He attended his first class at a suburban Cleveland studio on Wednesday night.

"I'm the worst yoga student in the history of yoga," O'Neal said Thursday.

His massive 7-foot-1, 325-pound frame needed two mats, according to Tami Schneider, owner of Cleveland Yoga in Beachwood. She was O'Neal's instructor for the class and is special ordering a 100-inch mat for her new student, who promised he'll be back.

"He's got some tight hamstrings," Schneider said. "He's obviously a big, strong man. He told me he doesn't stretch very often and that was pretty apparent. I'm looking forward to working with him to get him into some deeper stretches."

O'Neal was interested in Schneider's "hot yoga" class, which is practiced in a room heated to between 85 and 90 degrees. It's designed to purify the body and make the body sweat, release toxins and enhance stretching.

That's important to O'Neal, who needed some modifications for a few of the exercises, like crossing one thigh over the other.

"His thighs are gigantic and so strong, they're as big as my whole body," Schneider said. "So he was able to cross his ankles and that was just fine."

For a forward bend, students are instructed to reach down to the ground in front of them. O'Neal needed blocks to bring the floor closer to him.

Still, Schneider said O'Neal is not the worst yoga student she's seen in her 12 years.

"Not at all," she said. "He came in just like a regular guy. He was alone, which was nice, and he seemed to feel right at home at the studio. He fit right in."

O'Neal spent the offseason filming his reality show "Shaq Vs," in which he competed against various top athletes in their sports. He traded punches with Oscar De La Hoya, intercepted Ben Roethlisberger passes and even swam against Olympic gold medalist Michael Phelps.

Teammates already have remarked that O'Neal looks to be in terrific shape, which he credits to a summer in the pool.

Now the 37-year-old wants to work on his flexibility.

"You just want to stay loose. You have to do different things to stay loose," O'Neal said. "I have a lot of time on my hands because I'm new to the city and I don't have any hangout spots yet."

O'Neal was traded to the Cavaliers over the summer and already likes what he sees on his new team. He has won four NBA titles, but thinks this Cavaliers team could be the best yet.

"It's probably the best team I've ever played on, on paper anyway," O'Neal said. "I've always been on management to get me the power forward I've needed and the shooters I've needed."

With O'Neal and Kobe Bryant, the Lakers went 67-15 and won a championship in 2000.

The Cavaliers won 66 games last season, but added O'Neal, Anthony Parker and Jamario Moon after losing to Orlando in the Eastern Conference finals.

O'Neal said he likes having guys like Zydrunas Ilgauskas and Anderson Varejao with him in the post, along with shooters like LeBron James and Mo Williams.

"When the big fella talks, you have to listen because he's been around a long time and his resume speaks for itself," coach Mike Brown said. "He's been on a lot of teams. If he says that, it's something that has to be heard."

A US lead, a moral victory for International

The President's Cup

AP

United States players Tiger Woods, left, and Steve Stricker celebrate their 6 and 4 win over International players Geoff Ogilvy and Ryo Ishikawa in their foursomes match at golf's Presidents Cup at Harding Park Golf Course Thursday, Oct. 8, 2009, in San Francisco.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The Americans were in a familiar spot at the Presidents Cup, taking the lead after the opening session of foursomes on the strength of its best players—Tiger Woods, Steve Stricker and Phil Mickelson.

The International team had to settle for a moral victory, which it gladly accepted.

Two years ago at Royal Montreal, the Americans didn't lose a match on opening day in building a five-point lead, which turned out to be the margin when the golf trophy was awarded. It was so bad that captain Greg Norman and Ernie Els were among those who thought anything better would be considered a good start.

It wasn't looking good. Not with the Americans already up 3-2 in matches, and leading the final alternate-shot match 1 up on the final hole with Justin Leonard only 3 feet away for a birdie to halve the hole.

Everything changed with one putt.

After some confusion over whether the putt had been conceded, Leonard missed with a putt that spun out of the right lip. The match was halved, although it felt like a full point for the International side. Instead of the U.S. team leading 4-2, it was 3 1/2-2 1/2.

"At the end, we were pretty fortunate to have 2 1/2 points," Els said. "That's one of the better starts we've had, believe it or not, for the last three Cups or so. So we are not too despondent about today."

Some of the matches were clean. Woods and Stricker combined to make six birdies against no bogeys—solid stuff for the difficult alternate-shot format—and pounded Geoff Ogilvy and Ryo Ishikawa in the shortest match of the day, 6 and 4. It was a powerful tandem of Woods' iron play and Stricker's pure putting.

"It's a pretty nice feeling to have Steve putting for us," Woods said.

Some of the matches were sloppy. Mike Weir and Tim Clark, the only partnership without a birdie Thursday, still had a 1-up lead with six holes to play until Mickelson and Anthony Kim came to life with four straight birdies for a 3-and-2 victory. It started with Kim's wedge to 3 feet on the 13th hole, and they never let up.

"We needed something to ignite us and that wedge shot did the trick," Mickelson said.

Els and Adam Scott came up with a 2-and-1 victory over Hunter Mahan and Sean O'Hair, while Robert Allenby and Vijay Singh held off major champions Lucas Glover and Stewart Cink, 1 up. Those were the only two matches in which the Americans never led.

Then came the crazy finish.

Retief Goosen and PGA champion Y.E. Yang, 3 up after five holes, lost four straight holes at the turn and down themselves in a no-win situation when trailing 2 down with two to play. Somehow, they found a way not to lose.

Goosen holed a birdie putt on the 17th, although the U.S. had the advantage on the par-5 18th.

Leonard hit a beautiful fairway metal onto the green, which looked like a sure birdie. Goosen hit his metal to the right rough, from where Yang chipped to 4 feet and Goosen rapped in the birdie putt.

Goosen then forgot the score.

He looked over at Jim Furyk as if wanting to give Leonard the putt since the match was all square, only to realize eventually that the Americans had a 1-up advantage. Leonard stood over the putt, with his teammate ready to celebrate.

He missed.

The International team, ready to settle into another big hole, tried to contain their glee, but that was a big miss.

"We wanted to get out of the day with pretty close to a push, and I'm very, very happy," Norman said.

Leonard made no excuses.

"I just hit a bad putt," he said. "I knew I was going to need to make that little putt. Unfortunately, I missed it."

U.S. captain Fred Couples said Goosen later spoke to him and Leonard and apologized for any misunderstanding.

"He didn't mean anything by it, and Justin didn't have a problem," Couples said. "No one has a problem with it. Did we think we were going to be up 4-2? Yes, we really did. But it won't be the last putt every missed at the Presidents Cup, and it won't be the last time a reversal was done. So we'll just come out tomorrow and try to get 3 1/2 more points against this team."

It looked simple enough on a cool, cloudy day on this public course south of San Francisco.

Until the final putt.

"I was a little confused by the whole thing, to tell you the truth," Stricker said. "It looked like he was going to give him the putt. Obviously, he didn't. We talked to Jim Furyk, and nothing was ever conceded. But from everybody standing there on the side, it kind of looked like he was going to give it to him."

Norman said there was no gamesmanship on Goosen's part.

"He thought the match was over," Norman said. "He didn't concede the putt. He just thought the match was over. It was a legitimate mistake, and no intent or malice. It was just the intensity of the game."

It only figures to pick up starting Friday, with six matches of fourballs.

WR Edwards practices for first time with Jets

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. (AP)—Braylon Edwards spent most of his first few hours with the New York Jets meeting his new teammates and coaches and digging into the playbook.

Just over 24 hours after being traded from Cleveland, the wide receiver was on the practice field for the Jets and already feeling like one of the guys.

"It's just a fresh start for me being in a situation where everything is moving in the right direction," Edwards said Thursday. "It's great for me to be a part of something like this. It's good for me, for my mental, for my physical, and I'm expecting to play well in this system."

Edwards, wearing a white No. 17 jersey, caught passes from rookie Mark Sanchez, as well as backups Erik Ainge and Kevin O'Connell in early drills.

"He looked tall," coach Rex Ryan said of the 6-foot-3 Edwards. "He's big, fast; he's everything."

He's at least everything the Jets had been missing in their receiving corps. Sorely in need of a big deep threat, New York acquired Edwards on Wednesday for wide receiver Chansi Stuckey, linebacker Jason Trusnik and two undisclosed draft choices.

Edwards will start opposite Jerricho Cotchery in New York's next game Monday night at Miami. Ryan is excited about how his new receiver's presence will open things up for the entire offense.

"If you're going to put nine guys down there or eight guys down there, then we have a chance to run Cotchery and him straight down the field," Ryan said. "We've got one-on-one matchups and we like them on both sides."

Edwards, in his fifth season, had 10 receptions for 139 yards and no scores for the winless Browns. He has familiarity with the Jets' offensive system because it's similar to what former Browns offensive coordinator Rob Chudzinski ran. Jets offensive coordinator Brian Schottenheimer worked for a few years in San Diego with Chudzinski.

"It went well with the terminology," Edwards said. "That's the big thing coming over to a new system. Can you get it? Can you learn it? It went real well today. I feel pretty confident."

Schottenheimer said he has no concerns that Edwards will be ready to go against the Dolphins.

"He's a really sharp guy," Schottenheimer said. "He's ahead, just because a lot of the stuff that we call things he's heard it called the same thing before. It's not 100 percent, but there's quite a bit of carryover."

And, that comfort level showed.

"He was really pretty smooth, to be honest with you, for a first day," tight end Dustin Keller said. "It seemed like he had been doing this for a little while. We know he's just going to get that much better and open things up for us."

Edwards' best season came in 2007, when he had 80 catches for 1,289 yards and 16 touchdowns. He hopes to return to that elite status, and thinks the first step is developing a solid rapport with Sanchez.

"Mark is the guy here," he said. "Mark's calling the shots. The big thing for me is to just stay on his page, see how he likes to call plays, how he likes to throw passes, his hots, his sights. I really want to get a feel for him."

Edwards said he met Indianapolis wide receiver Reggie Wayne at the Pro Bowl following the 2007 season and asked him what the key to his success with Peyton Manning was. Wayne told him that he and Manning spent so much time together they "know each other like the back of our hands."

"For us two young guys," Edwards said, "that's what we need to do."

Edwards has one year remaining on his existing contract, and the Jets have said they won't offer a new deal during this season. Edwards said that's fine with him.

"I think the biggest thing for me is knowing that right now I'm just playing through the end of this season," he said. "There's nothing guaranteed. It's not about a contract. It's about going out there and proving every play that I deserve to be here and I deserve to be the guy that he's throwing the ball to."

Edwards' character has come under fire because of a series of off-field problems, including his alleged involvement in a nightclub fight early Monday morning in Cleveland. His unhappiness with losing with the Browns, and questions about his desire to play football also dogged him.

"I don't even want to talk about what I've experienced because that's over with," he said. "Cleveland is Cleveland and now I'm in New York. It's just fun."

Lapses in concentration also led to Edwards dropping some passes in games, a reputation he's trying to eliminate.

"He had one drop today, so I'm sure we'll focus on that," Ryan said with a laugh. "He caught about 50 balls and dropped one. It was funny because right when he did drop one, I was like, 'Oh, boy.' He's going to drop some passes. He's human, just like anybody else, but I don't think we need to be overly concerned if he drops a ball."

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A player in a Rocball tournament is seen here serving. Rocball's 26th season will start with preseason games beginning on Oct. 17 at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Rocball preseason to start next week

Rocball, the islands' only indigenous sport, will tentatively starts its preseason games on Tuesday, Oct. 17, at the the Marianas High School Gymnasium,

James Feger, the sport's inventor, said Rocball's 26th season this year will begins as soon as six teams have registered to play.

He said anyone interested in forming a team should sign up seven players and choose one player to serve as captain/coach.

Teams can be organized with a mix of players from high schools, college, and the community. They should then choose a team name and turn in their rosters to him or Myron Laniyo at the MHS Gym.

Feger said Rocball games will be played during the Safe Haven Program hours after school on the weekdays from 5pm to 8pm and on Saturday between 4pm and 8 pm.

For information about the upcoming Rocball season, call Feger at 237-3235.

Last year, Evenflow came back from a 2-1 deficit in their best-of-three final series against No-Use to win the 2008 World Organized Rocball Community League at the MHS Gym.

Rocball was first written in Ebisu, Japan in 1979. The sport itself went through a two-year experimental period at Hopwood Junior High School from 1981 to 1983. Rocball started being played as a regular sporting activity in 1983.

In an earlier interview, Feger said Rocball is unique because it is the first team net sport to develop offensive and defensive scoring, multiple-point scoring, penalty point scoring, and included goals for scoring in this kind of sport.

Rocball is also the first sport of this kind that developed a scoring system, where a team could win a game by total amount of points scored using a set system of play, according to Feger.

He said outside of Saipan, he has heard reports that Rocball is also being played in India, on the beaches of California, and summer camps in the Midwest. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Arum rejects Floyd's 60-40 proposal

Legendary promoter Bob Arum has refused Floyd Mayweather Jr's proposal that the latter would get a 60-40 upper hand in purse share if and when he faces Filipino icon Manny Pacquiao next year.

Money, according to Arum, remains the biggest hurdle to make that fight as Mayweather, on several occasions, has made it clear that he won't take a 50-50 deal to fight Pacquiao.

Mayweather, nicknamed "Money" due to his propensity to dangle wads of cash to be given away, has maintained that his pay-per-view number is a big factor in demanding more money than Pacquiao. In at least two interviews, Mayweather was quoted as saying he wants no less than 60-40 sharing in his favor.

"60-40? That's music to my ears. If I start hearing 60-40 – that just tells me to hang up (the phone) and move on to the next guy," Arum told Boxingscene.

Arum added that he would like to see Mayweather accept the challenge of Shane Mosley believing that Mayweather will never accept a fight with Mosley because of the latter's fighting style.

Mayweather

"I think Cotto probably beats Mayweather. I think Manny probably beats Mayweather and I think Mosley beats Mayweather. I think Shane Mosley, because of his style, has the best chance to beat Mayweather," Arum stated.

"The fight that should be made is Mayweather and Shane Mosley. But Mayweather won't take that fight. He won't take any fight where there is any possibility where he might lose. Money is secondary with him. He will not take a chance like a normal fighter. He cares more about his legacy and being able to retire undefeated, so he could say that he never lost a fight."

Arum suggested that the winner of Pacquiao versus Cotto should give Mosley the chance to fight him.

"I think Pacquiao and Cotto should give Mosley some serious consideration. The reason I made the fight [Cotto-Pacquiao] is because Cotto beat Mosley and both of them [Cotto-Pacquiao] are my fighters," Arum said. ***(PDI)***

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yet to be selected, while the General Assembly will take place in New Caledonia mid next year with the council also expected to check on the French territory's preparation for the Pacific Games.

The "grandfathering" system, which the CNMI is supporting, will allow athletes who had played in the Mini Games and Pacific Games from 2005 or earlier to compete in New Caledonia in 2011.

In the current charter amended at the PCG Assembly in Rarotonga on Sept. 22, 2008, only athletes who meet the citizenship/residency requirement can compete in the Mini Games and Pacific Games.

According to the PCG Charter, "citizen" means the holder of a current valid and applicable passport of the country/territory the athlete represents. "Residency" means that the athlete shall be a citizen of the country/territory the athlete represents and has resided for not less than five years (cumulatively, whether consecutively or not) at any time in that country/territory of the PGA (Pacific Games Association).

"For the avoidance of doubt, the temporary absence of an athlete from the country/territory of their citizenship for purposes such as education and sports training, military service and health care, and other legitimate absences of a like kind shall be considered as residency," the Charter further stated.

The "applicable passports" for territories are as follows: US—for American Samoa, Guam, and the CNMI; New Zealand—for Cook Islands, Niue, and Tokelau, Australia—for Norfolk Island; and France—for French Polynesia, New Caledonia, and Wallis and Futuna.

Tennis and table tennis associations in the CNMI have expressed an intention to send delegates to the 2011 Pacific Games, but some of their players do not qualify under the current eligibility rules.

Besides the "grandfathering system," some PGAs are also proposing that the council considers the rules implemented by the sports' respective international federations.

Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association president Jeff Race said their mother federation, the Oceania Tennis Federation, may support these amendments.

Race said OTF is aware that there are several players who are not citizens of the country/territory they are representing, but have honed their skills there for a long period of time and had represented these nations well in international tournaments.

"They may support changes in this "citizen-only" rule," Race said.

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"Days before the race, I will be visiting the University of Guam to complete documents and make a follow-up on my financial aid. I will also visit the race course on Friday and rest on Saturday," Mancao said.

The half marathon course will begin and end at the Governor Joseph Flores Memorial Park (Ypao Beach Park) with a hill climb and rolling slopes for the first two kilometers. The next 15 kilometers is relatively flat, as runners cruise the residential village of Tamuning and Marine Corps Drive. The terrain remains level, as runners head to Hagatna then go to the turnaround point just inside the village of Asan.

In the relay, exchange points 1 and 3 is on Marine Corps Drive, East Agana (close to Citibank) and exchange point 2 will be on Marine Corps Drive, Asan (at the entrance into the village of Asan just before the turnaround point).

In Guam, Mancao is hoping to pass his personal best time of one hour and 29 minutes.

"I also hope to set a junior record. My training has been going smooth so far (lots of miles) and I feel confident. My speed is okay, but it's never easy for me to run 80 minutes at the 6:50 per mile pace," said Mancao, who thanked Camacho and Berger for supporting his trip to Guam and R&J LLC through its manager Joseph Sablan for paying the entrance fee.

"I hope the crowd would be bigger than I expected, as I tend to run faster in a big group," the Marianas High School alumnus added.

While in Guam, Mancao and the rest of the CNMI bets will also promote Saipan races (marathon and half marathon) for next year.

Next weekend's races in Guam will be the fourth edition of the Ko'ko' event. Guam Visitors Bureau started the race in 2006 not only to attract off-island runners, but also to promote awareness on the plight of the Guam Rail or Ko'ko' bird.

The Ko'ko' is a flightless bird common in Guam, but it is near extinction due to the brown tree snakes, pesticides, and other predators. Efforts to save the Ko'ko' from extinction are ongoing and in 1995 a hundred Ko'ko' birds were released on Rota, north of Guam.

Last year's Ko'Ko' half marathon race had the Philippines' Pepito Deapra and Guam's Sung Ja Ahn as winners. Deapra and Ahn both set course records of 1:18:14 and 1:27: 38, respectively.

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of the league.

Games in this year's competition will be played every Monday and Friday. Monday's match will take place at the Oleai Sports Complex Field, while Southern's pitch will host Friday's game.

Despite the cancellation of the league's opening on Oct. 13, the same pairing for the kick-off will still be implemented. Kagman Ayuyus will face the MCS Knights in the opening game at 4:30pm. A brief opening ceremony featuring the four teams will be held starting at 3:40pm.

On Oct. 26, Kagman will play again and will duel Southern. MHS will make its debut in the league on Nov. 2 against the defending champion Manta Rays.

The league has a three-round robin format in the regular season, while the playoff round will be a single-elimination affair. The No. 1 team will play the No. 4 squad for the first finals seat, while the No. 2 and 3 squads will collide for the other championship berth.

Meanwhile, action in the 2009 NMIFA Youth Football Fall League will resume tomorrow at the various schools fields on Saipan.

Games set for U6 division are Paire Red vs. MP United-Blue at the San Vicente field; MP United-Silver vs. Tan Holdings at Navy Hill; Matansa Gold vs. MP United-White at GTC, and IFC vs. Paire Black at Southern.

Paire Red will duel MP United-Blue in the U8 game. Other matches are MPU-Silver vs Paire Black; Matansa Gold vs. MP United-White; Tan Holdings vs. Matansa Green; and IFC vs. Paire White.

Schedule of games in the U10 are as follows: Paire Red vs. Matansa Yellow; MP United vs. Tan Holdings; Matansa Gold vs. IFC Green; and IFC Orange vs. Paire Black.

In the boys' U13 division, Paire will take on Tan Holdings at Hopwood pitch 1 at 4pm, while MP United-White will collide against IFC at 5pm. In the girls' U13, MP United will face IFC, while Matansa will square off against Paire.

A US lead, a moral victory for International

The Americans were in a familiar spot at the Presidents Cup, taking the lead after the opening session of foursomes on the strength of its best players–Tiger Woods, Steve Stricker and Phil Mickelson. **26**

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Hunter homers, Lackey pitches Angels past Red Sox

Right when Torii Hunter's three-run homer hit the rock pile beyond center field at Angel Stadium, two bursts of fireworks shot up from the artificial boulders. **25**

Jess and Josh lead September's best

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Golfer Jess Wabol and triathlete Joshua Manglona were given the NMASA September Male Athlete of the Month citation after representing the CNMI to the 2009 Pacific Mini Games in Rarotonga, Cook Islands last month.

Wabol and Manglona unanimously got the nod of NMASA members during the selection of the monthly awardees on Thursday during the association's meeting at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Manglona was the CNMI's lone entry in the triathlon competition and he completed the 1.5-kilometer swim, 40-km bike, and 10-km run course in two hours, 54 minutes, and 36 seconds. The Tinian athlete timed in at 34:06 in the swim leg, 1:24:10 in the bike race, and 55:01 in the run part to finish 10th in the men's individual triathlon.

Wabol participated in the four-round golf tournament played at the Rarotonga Golf Club and finished 21st among the more than 40 players entered in the event.

The veteran par buster showed his best game in the fourth round after shooting a 2-over par 74. Wabol got off to a slow start when he nailed a 5-over par 77 in the first round. He then redeemed himself in the second round with a 3-over par 75, before struggling, anew in the third round, drilling a 7-over par 79.

Wabol

Manglona

Park

Joining Wabol and Manglona in September's best list was youth tennis player Chris Park.

Park won one championship and had a runner-up finish in last month's Quality Cup Junior Tennis Tournament in Guam to earn the Male Student Athlete of the Month award.

Park claimed the boys' 12-and-under crown in the Guam tournament after shutting out Sean Saltzgaber in the finals, 8-0. Park's other victories were against Ye Lishe, 8-2, and Justin Johnson, 8-4.

The Saipan-based player also made it to the finals of the boys' 14-and-under singles, but the title match was rained-out even before it started. Park then had to hand the win to his foe by forfeiture, as he needed to return to Saipan on the same day the title game was set.

With Wabol, Manglona, and Park making it to September's best group, they are now eligible for the Athletes of the Year awards, which are given after monthly awardees for 2009 are completed.

5 local runners to join Guam Ko'ko' Road Race

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Youth runner Matthew Mancao and four others are leaving Saipan next weekend to participate in the 2009 Guam Gatorade Ko'ko' Road Race set for Oct. 18.

The Ko'ko' Road Race features two events, namely the half marathon and a four-person Ekiden Relay, consisting of legs of 5.38 kilometers for the first runner, 5.15 km for the second and third, and 5.41 km for the fourth.

Joining Mancao in Guam are Joshua and Mamiko Berger, Fred Camacho, and Jack "The Road Runner Bunny" Kabiriel. All five will compete in the various age groups of the half marathon race.

Mancao will be the first to leave for Guam, giving him time to check on the race course. The four other Saipan runners are expected to arrive in Guam on Oct. 16.

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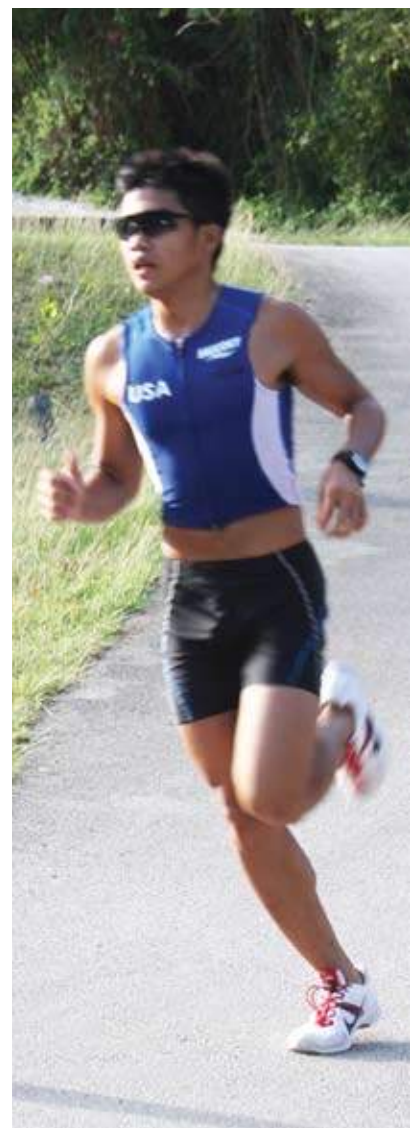

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ

Matthew Mancao, seen here competing in a local event, will be leaving Saipan week for the 2009 Guam Gatorade Ko'ko' Road Race set for Oct. 18.

Opening of high school soccer league moved

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Players in the 18-and-under age group are seen here in action during a local tournament early this year. On Oct.19, these players will be back at the pitch when NMIFA holds the boys varsity league.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The kick-off date for the 2009 NMIFA Boys Varsity Football League has been moved from Oct. 13 to Oct. 19.

Northern Marianas Islands Football Association secretary general Kentaro Imaya, in an e-mail to *Saipan Tribune*, said the change in the opening date will give participating teams more time to prepare for the league.

Four teams are entered in this year's varsity league, namely Saipan Southern High School, Marianas High School, Kagman High School, and Mt. Carmel School.

This year's defending champions are the Southern Manta Rays, who defeated the MCS Knights in the one-game finals of the 2007 edition

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Eligibility rules up for review

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The fate of athletes hoping to representthe CNMI in the 2011 Pacific Games in New Caledonia hangs in the balance for now, as proposed changes on eligibility rules were referred to a charter review committee.

White

Northern MarianasAmateur Sports Association president Michael White, who attended the Pacific Games Council's General Assembly in Rarotonga, Cook Islands last month, said no decision was made on the introduced amendments on eligibility rules, including the "grandfathering" system.

White, during the NMASA monthly meeting on Thursday, added proposed changes were forwarded to a charter review committee, which will then discuss and make recommendations about the eligibility rules in next year's PGC General Assembly.

Members of the committee have

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